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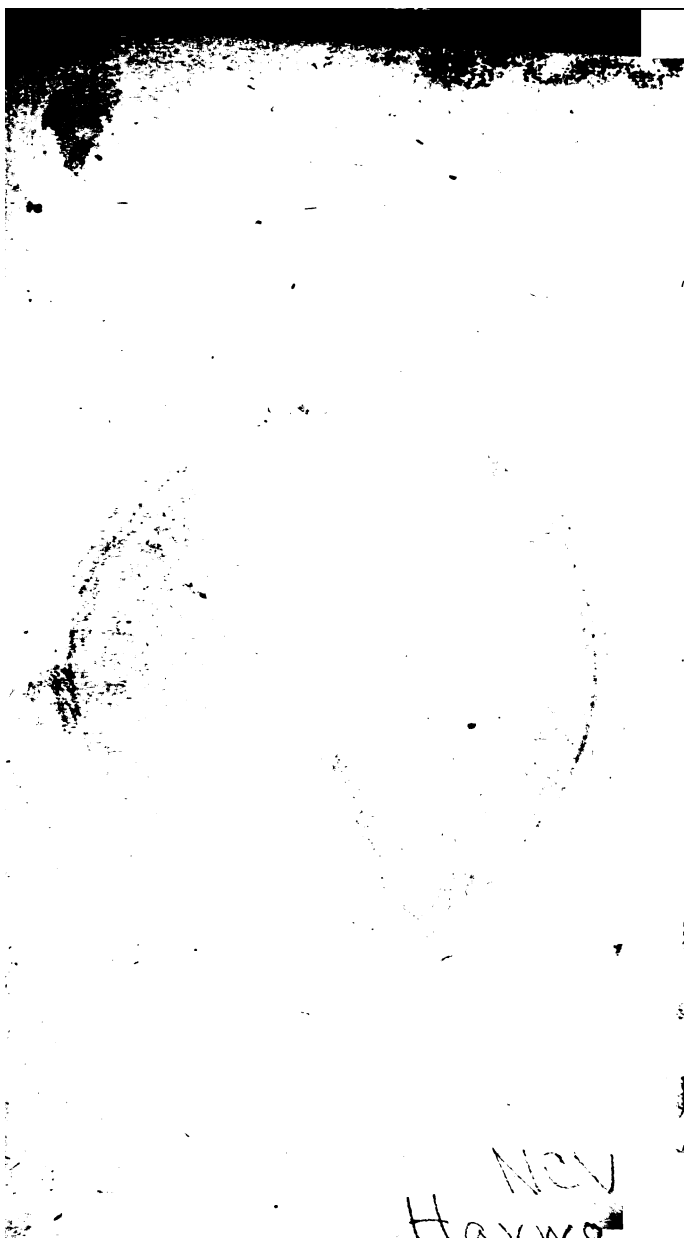


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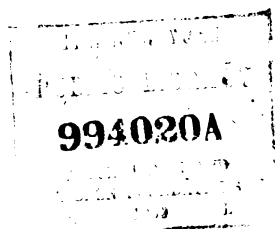
THE
Invisible Spy.

BY
EXPLORALIBUS. *pseud.*
(*Mrs Haywood*)
VOL. II.



L O N D O N:
Printed for T. GARDNER, at Cowley's Head,
near St. Clement's Church in the Strand.

M,D,CC,LV.





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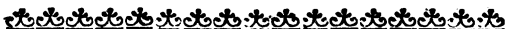


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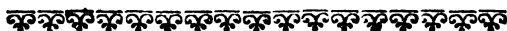
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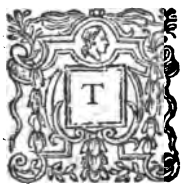


B O O K III.



C H A P. I.

In which the author introduces himself to the public by some letters he has received from unrequested correspondents, and the answers he gives to them.



HO' I am very certain of the honour and strict probity of my editor, and believe he employs none, especially in any thing relating to the press, but such whose integrity may be depended upon,
VOL. II. B yet,

yet, I know not how it is, but the title of this work has, by some means or other, taken air, and I perceive has sounded an alarm in the ears of those who blush to be told of what they do not blush to act; for before the first volume was near half completed several letters from different hands were left for me at the Printing-Office; some of which I think it highly proper to insert, as I have no other way of communicating my sentiments to the authors of them, and shall leave it to the public to judge impartially between us.

LETTER I.

To the INVISIBLE SPY.

Mr. INVISIBLE,

“ I Am a fair enemy, and scorn to cut
 “ any man’s throat without first tel-
 “ ling him I intend to do so:—I therefore
 “ send this before the publication of
 “ your book, to give you warning not
 “ to put any thing into it that may affront
 “ the honourable society of Bucks, of
 “ which I am not only a member but at
 “ present the President.—What if we ap-
 “ pear a little terrible to silly people, and
 “ sometimes, for sport’s sake, overturn a
 “ chaise, or jostle an old man or insigni-
 “ ficant woman into the kennel, beat the
 “ watch,

The Invisible Spy.

3

“ watch, break the windows of houses,
“ or rob the watchmen of their lanterns;
“ horns; we look upon ourselves as absolute sovereigns of all public places,
“ and will not suffer a reprimand from
“ any paultry scribbler of you all; for
“ whatever we may happen to do, either
“ on the Road, in the Mall, or the
“ Street;—take notice also, that the least
“ provocation offer'd to any one of us
“ incurs the resentment of the whole
“ body, and we have unanimously sworn
“ to make a dreadful example of you if
“ found culpable this way; — hope not
“ to escape, — we shall trace you to your
“ lurking-hole, — pluck off your life of
“ Invisibilty, and hack you into atoms;
“ — vengeance is the word, — mark
“ that, and tremble how you offend

“ A Buck.

In answer to this terrible gentleman I shall only say, that tho' I am no friend to fighting, especially with horned animals, yet I am not coward enough to be so far intimidated by his menaces as to erase any thing I have once wrote; if therefore he finds nothing in this work concerning the fraternity of which he boasts being a member, he may assure himself that it is merely because I look on all the adventures they are engaged in, as too low

and too trifling for the entertainment of my readers.

LETTER II.

TO the AUTHOR of the INVISIBLE SPY.

“ S I R,

“ **T**HERE are a set of men about
 “ this town who pick up a pretty
 “ tolerable living by inspecting into the
 “ secrets of the press;—they are a sort of
 “ Spies as well as yourself, and as Invi-
 “ sible as you can pretend to be;—they
 “ find means to steal the title of every
 “ new book long before it is advertised,
 “ and almost as soon as the letters which
 “ form it are put together by the compo-
 “ sitor, it is by one of those very useful
 “ persons I am informed of the work you
 “ have in hand, and being apprehensive
 “ that it may contain some things which
 “ had much better be conceal’d than
 “ made known, I take the liberty to offer
 “ you my sentiments upon it, previous
 “ to the publication, in order that you
 “ may make such alterations, as on hear-
 “ ing my reasons, you shall find necessary
 “ and proper,

“ In the first place, sir, I would have
 “ you consider, that whatever is bad either
 “ in

“ in the affairs of private families or in
“ national concerns, ~~may~~ possibly be made
“ much worse, but can never be amended
“ by being exposed ; — ill fortune, let it
“ come in what shape it will, can get
“ nothing by complaints but a short-lived
“ pity ; and when that is over, insults
“ and contempt are sure to ensue : — it is
“ prudence, therefore, to make a good
“ appearance as long as we can ; and,
“ according to the vulgar adage, let the
“ evil day take care for its self.

“ It is with great propriety that writers
“ who presume to cavil, and find fault
“ with the management of those at the
“ helm, are compared to curs barking at
“ the Moon ; for the Ad—m—n, like
“ that planet, secure in its own height,
“ despising all arrows shot from the in-
“ ferior world, moves on in the same
“ uninterrupted course it has begun, and
“ will continue to do so, except some
“ sudden revolution should happen among
“ the stars, and the disposition of nature
“ be entirely chang’d.

“ What avails, therefore, all these in-
“ vectives that from time to time have
“ been thrown out against the ministry ?
“ — this presuming to canvas every bill
“ brought into parliament, and grumb-
“ ling

“ling at them after being enacted into
 “laws, since, in spite of all that can
 “be said or wrote, things will be as
 “they are?—The wise of all ages agree,
 “that happiness is seated in content, and
 “if this be true, the good people of
 “England need only think themselves
 “happy, to be so. —This fortunate æra
 “might presently arrive, if the com-
 “monality would once cease affecting to
 “be thought politicians, and every one
 “say with mr. Pope,

In spite of pride, unerring reason's spite,
 One truth is clear, — whatever is, — is
 right.

“But to come to the point ;—you must
 “know, sir, I have the honour of a
 “seat in the present parliament, and
 “hope to have the same in the ensuing
 “one ; but being conscious of having
 “been pretty strenuous in bringing about
 “some things not very popular, parti-
 “cularly the bill in relation to the Na-
 “turalization of the Jews, I should be
 “glad to have that matter brought as
 “little as possible upon the tapis ;—not
 “that I fear being rechosen,—but it will
 “cost me more money ;—you understand
 “me ; — my constituents will sell their
 “voices at a much higher price ; and, it
 “may

“ may be, some few of them not be pre-
“ vail’d upon to sell at all.

“ I earnestly desire therefore, that if
“ you mention any thing of this affair, it
“ may be wholly in favour of the Israelies;
“ — set up the law of Moses in opposi-
“ tion to the rules of Christianity; — it
“ will be easy for you to prove your argu-
“ ment by quotations out of some inge-
“ nious pamphlets publish’d within these
“ few years: — your compliance with this
“ request will oblige me to recommend
“ your book among all my friends, and
“ to do to you every other good office
“ in the power of,

“ SIR,

“ Your most humble

“ and obedient servant,

“ JUDAICUS.”

I am sorry this gentleman has given
himself the trouble to write so long a letter
to so little purpose; — I am a very old-
fashion’d fellow, I revere the old testa-
ment, but endeavour to act according to
the precepts of the new, so consequently
can be no friend to the profess’d enemies
of it: — I shall take care, however, not to

offend any member of the honourable house of commons; — I shall be so wise, at least while I keep in remembrance the fate of M——y.

LETTER III.

TO the INVISIBLE SPY.

SIR,

“ I Am shock’d and scandalized beyond
 “ measure at your title, and so I be-
 “ lieve is every body else that hears it :—
 “ What but the very Devil incarnate can
 “ have tempted you to assume one so un-
 “ gracious to all degrees of people ? —
 “ An Invisible Spy !—why, it is a cha-
 “ racter more to be dreaded than an
 “ Excise, a Custom-house or a Sheriff’s
 “ Officer; — nay, than even a King’s
 “ Messenger : — human prudence has
 “ taught us to elude the scrutiny of all
 “ known examiners ; but who can guard
 “ against what they do not see ? — You
 “ may be at our very elbows without our
 “ knowing you are ; — you may explore
 “ all the necessary arts and mysteries of
 “ our several avocations, without our
 “ having it in our power to bribe you to
 “ secrecy : — What therefore can you ex-
 “ pect, as there is no other way of deal-
 “ ing with you, but to have your book
 “ damn’d

“ damn’d the first moment of its publication; and to be plain with you, I, who am an author as well as yourself, have already, at the request of some leading men, prepar’d a thing for the press which will effectually do your business? — As a brother of the quill, however, thinking it becoming in me to give you this timely notice, and likewise to advise you to cancel all such pages, as upon a strict examination you shall find may possibly be construed into a libel, — whether the matters they contain are founded either upon truth or fiction; — you know very well, that the one is liable to the same punishment as the other; with this difference only, that the former being the most stinging, is, generally speaking, treated with the most severity; — I have heard some menaces thrown out against you, and sincerely wish you may escape the effects, and meet with no other chastisement for your folly, than what you will receive from the pen of

“ SCRIBLERIUS.”

I shall defer giving my sentiments on my brother author’s doughty epistle, till I find myself oblig’d to declare them in an answer to the treatise with which he

threatens me, as one trouble will suffice for both.

LETTER IV.

From a lady to the INVISIBLE SPY.

S I R,

“ S Everal of my acquaintance have
 “ taken it into their heads, I suppose
 “ not without special information, that
 “ there is a book coming out under the
 “ title I have prefix’d to this letter ; — if
 “ there be in reality any such work in the
 “ press, I take the liberty of telling the
 “ author, that I hope he has more good
 “ sense and good manners than to pry into
 “ the secrets of our sex, much less to fol-
 “ low the example of a late writer in ex-
 “ posing to the world what he may hap-
 “ pen to find in some of our dressing-
 “ rooms, cabinets, and private alcoves.
 “ — Suppose a woman has the misfortune
 “ to like another man better than her
 “ husband,—pawns her jewels to pay her
 “ debts at play,—or is in the books of her
 “ mercer, laceman, and milliner, beyond
 “ her utmost ability to clear ?—these are
 “ all of them foibles which ought to be
 “ excused, as they are the fashion, and
 “ one should be look’d upon as a creature
 “ of the last age to be wholly free from ;
 “ — so,

“—so, dear Invisible, I would have you
“consider, that the want of politeness in
“your sex is much more ridiculous than
“the want of chastity and œconomy is in
“ours: — flattery and homage are the
“privilege of womankind, and if a fa-
“ther, an uncle, or a brother, assumes to
“himself the right of correcting any
“mistakes we are guilty of, we are sure
“to hate him for it in our hearts; — if
“therefore there be any one of us whom
“you would wish to be well with, you
“must conceal the faults of the rest.

“Yours, &c.

“ERRONIA.”

I am afraid that I shall have but a
very indifferent chance for a place in the
good graces of this lady; but as there are
others, I hope the greatest number, of an
opposite way of thinking, I shall the more
easily console myself.

LETTER V.

TO the INVISIBLE SPY.

“MR. INVISIBLE,

“**N**othing is more absurd in effect,
“than for people to take all oppor-
“tunities of railing against that which they

“ are continually practising ;—the article
“ of gaming is so popular a subject, that
“ tho’ you may like the amusement as
“ well as any body, I scarce doubt but
“ to satyrize it makes some part of your
“ lucubrations ; but how bold soever you
“ may be with the sweetners and common
“ gamblers, who have no other depen-
“ dance for their bread, I would have
“ you beware how you meddle with per-
“ sons of rank and fortune :— if by my
“ address in the turning of a card I win
“ five hundred or a thousand pieces of a
“ fellow who has the vanity to imagine
“ he has as much skill as myself, it is
“ only for the pleasure of circumventing,
“ and then laughing at him, not through
“ the love of lucre :—no, I would have
“ you know, sir, I scorn money, and
“ only put it in my pocket till I can
“ find a proper object to bestow it upon,
“ and the next needy woman of the town
“ I come in company with, tofs the fool’s
“ pence into her lap ;—or perhaps set half
“ a dozen of the poor devils a scrambling
“ for it : — I remember that one night,
“ in very cold weather too, I made a
“ whole covey of them strip naked as
“ they were born, and run galloping
“ the whole length of Pall-Mall after
“ seven or eight hundred moidores I
“ *threw* out of a tavern window.—If you
“ pretend

“pretend these are not generous action
“you will be thought a silly old Pu
“and your book not worth a farthing.
“— So no more from

“Yours,

“As I shall find you deserve,

“RAKELOVE.”

IF Mr. Rakelove's letter had reached my hands before these volumes were completed, it might have saved me the trouble of exposing the business of cheating at play, by having done it so effectually himself.

LETTER VI.

TO the INVISIBLE SPY.

SIR,

“I Hear you are going to set forth a
“new book, and from the title of it
“have some reason to apprehend you will
“be no less bitter in your expressions
“than some others have been against a
“nation which desires nothing more than
“to live in the most perfect concord
“and amity with yours, I beg leave to
“expostulate a little with you on that
“occasion.

“Y

“ I thought you Christians valued
“ yourselves upon acts of benevolence,
“ charity, and good-will to all men ; and
“ that to root out the seeds of envy and
“ malice from your hearts was a main
“ part of your religion ;—Wherefore then
“ is all this rancour against the Hebrews ?
“ — How can you profess the least true
“ regard for Abraham, or any of the Pa-
“ triarchs, when you grumble to admit
“ their posterity as fellow-citizens within
“ your walls ? — How can you place the
“ venerable portraitures of Moses and
“ Aaron in your temples, yet grudge that
“ the people they deliver’d from the house
“ of bondage should share with you in
“ the milk and honey of your land ? —
“ What if we crucified the man you
“ worship as your God ? — What if we
“ disbelieve and ridicule the miracles you
“ ascribe to him, deny his resurrection,
“ and in our synagogues utter some
“ things which you call blasphemy, our
“ principles, in matters of faith, have no
“ relation to those of loyalty to the king
“ or social conversation with our neigh-
“ bours ? — We can be as good sub-
“ jects and as merry companions as any
“ Christian of you all ; — the want of
“ either of these virtues cannot be im-
“ puted to us.

“ There

“ There are many of you, indeed, I
“ believe the greatest number, who put
“ religion quite out of the question, and
“ yet cry out that their rights and pro-
“ perties will be invaded; that when
“ once we have the liberty of being in-
“ corporated with you, such numbers of
“ us will flock hither from all parts of
“ the world, that we shall, by degrees, en-
“ gross all the trade of the kingdom;
“ to which I answer,—that if we should
“ do so, the fault will be wholly in your-
“ selves;—if you work and sell as cheap
“ as we do, you will have the same
“ chance for business;—and as for those
“ who shall be obliged to shut up their
“ shops, they will always find employ-
“ ment among us, either as journeymen
“ or menial servants:—a taylor or a
“ barber would make a good valet de
“ chambre; a merchant, a wine-cooper,
“ a vintner, or a distiller, could not fail
“ of being an excellent butler;—a jewel-
“ ler, a goldsmith, a mercer, a haber-
“ dasher, a woollen or a linnen-draper,
“ would be a spruce footman:—in fine,
“ there is no one person, of any occupa-
“ tion whatever, that might not, if he is
“ not too proud or too lazy, earn his
“ bread under our hospitable roofs.

“ As you are an author, I must believe you to be a man of sense, and therefore flatter myself that the arguments I have alledg’d will have some weight with you. — I am,

“ With all due respect,

“ SIR,

“ Your most obedient

“ humble servant,

“ SHIMEI BENZARA.”

My answer to Benzara may be found in the return I made to the letter of Judaicus, so I have only to thank this considerative and beneficent Hebrew for the handsome provision he proposes for the trading part of my countrymen, tho’ I hope they never will have occasion to accept it.

LETTER VII.

To the INVISIBLE SPY.

“ Honour’d sir,

“ **B**EING told you are a very extraordinary person, and can see every
“ thing,

“ thing and not be seen yourself, it is
“ likely that chance or design may some
“ time or other bring you to my house ;
“ as I live in a genteel part of the town,
“ keep several servants, and am visited
“ by people of the best fashion and re-
“ pute.

“ You must know, sir, that I pass for
“ a well jointur’d widow, but in reality
“ was never married in my life, and
“ have no other dependance than the fa-
“ vour of some worthy gentlemen and
“ ladies, who I frequently oblige with a
“ bed at the moderate rate of three
“ guineas per night.

“ Among the rest of my good custo-
“ mers there are two sisters of distinction,
“ who have each of them their particu-
“ lar favourites, and always meet them at
“ my house ;—one of them is married to
“ a man who is as jealous of her as the
“ devil ; and if he should get the least
“ intimation of her intrigue, and that I
“ am privy to it, he would blow me up
“ and ruin me for ever.

“ I therefore beg and beseech you, sir,
“ that if you make any discoveries of
“ this nature, you will not divulge it to
“ any soul in the world, much less not
“ put

“ put it into your book ; and in return
 “ for this favour, be assured that you,
 “ and any friend you shall bring with
 “ you, shall be welcome to the best ap-
 “ partment in my house, with a hot
 “ boil’d chicken and a bottle of wine in-
 “ to the bargain. — I am,

“ Depending on your honour,

“ SIR,

“ Your most devoted

“ humble servant,

“ SUSANNA PRIM.”

This good gentlewoman’s request is
 come too late to be comply’d with ;—she
 will find, however, if her avocation al-
 lows her time for the perusal of these
 volumes, that I have carefully avoided
 making any mischief in families.

I have also receiv’d another letter from
 a young lady, too tedious and too little
 interesting to be presented to the public,
 so I shall only give the heads of it, with
 my opinion on the matter it contains.

She is very pressing with me to clear
 her reputation, which, as she says, suffers
 much in the world without being guilty
 of

of any real crime ; but by the account she gives of herself, even tho' she should be as perfectly innocent in fact as she pretends, and as I hope she is, I can see very little merit in the virtue she so much boasts of, much less expect that any thing I can urge will put to silence the censures she complains of.

When a young woman, well born, genteely bred, and accustom'd in her childhood to converse with persons of condition, can condescend to keep company, and appear in all public places with the meanest and most abandon'd of her own sex, and suffer herself to be treated in taverns by those of the other with whom she had no acquaintance, nor had ever seen before, what can be alledg'd in vindication of her delicacy, her prudence, or her modesty ?

She says that her father, in his last moments, put a dagger into her hands, with a strict charge to keep and use it in defence of her chastity if attack'd ; but does not add that she ever had any occasion for exerting the heroine in this manner ;—so it seems to me that in the numberless dangers she confesses to have provok'd, she must have been indebted for protection merely to chance, or to an un-

common

common share either of honour, or coldness of constitution in the men with whom she entrusted herself.

Upon the whole, all that can be said in her favour is, that want of thought, the love of pleasure, and variety of company, betray'd her into a conduct she too late sees and repents the folly of, and which will be better retrieved by a future regularity of behaviour than by any vain excuses for the past.

~~CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF A VERY EXTRAORDINARY FUNERAL, AND ALSO OF SOME OTHER PRETTY PARTICULAR OCCURRENCES WHICH THE AUTHOR WAS WITNESS OF, IN AN INVISIBLE VISIT HE MADE TO THE MOST FAVOURITE PART OF THE FAMILY OF A LADY OF DISTINCTION.~~

C H A P. II.

Contains the history of a very extraordinary funeral, and also of some other pretty particular occurrences which the author was witness of, in an Invisible visit he made to the most favourite part of the family of a lady of distinction.

I Frequently stroll thro' the town, with my Invisible Belt close girt about me, not always with a view of making any discoveries, but merely to enjoy the freedom of my thought, without being interrupted by the impertinent how-d'y's of
some

some who might meet and know me by day, and to be safe from the salutation of the stand and deliver, — investors of the street by night, with whom I was no less inclined to engage in combat, than I am to comply with their unreasonable and unjust demands.

In these unmeaning rambles I sometimes stumbled upon adventures no less entertaining than many of those I had sought after, and took so much pains to explore the hidden source of.

I will not, however, pretend to promise that this I am now about to recite is either so improving or so pleasing as several others presented to the public in this work ; but be that as it shall happen, — the candid reader will accept of things as they fell under my observation, and content himself with such as are less agreeable, for the sake of those he shall find much more to his taste.

‘ Even life a kind of chequer-work
‘ appears,
‘ A round of joy, of grief, of hopes,
‘ and fears ;

‘ The

- ‘ The good, the bad, the wife with
‘ patience bear,
- ‘ Welcome the former, and the latter
‘ dare.

MARSTON.

I was going through a narrow lane one day, and saw a great concourse of the meaner sort of people gather’d together about a little door, which then seem’d to me, and I afterwards found, was the avenue to some stables or coach-house ; as I did not imagine that persons of the appearance these were could be assembled on any matter worthy of my attention, I should scarce have stopp’d to make any enquiry into it, if, just as I came near the place where they stood, they had not been join’d by some others, whose interrogatories awaken’d my curiosity.

The first that spoke was a broad ruddy-faced woman, with tatter’d garments, ungirt and loosely flowing, as was her hair, which hung down to her brows ; — her heels the length of half a span behind her shoes ; and, in fine, every mark about her that denoted her a true devotee to Bacchus, to whom, though it was scarce mid-day, and not the usual time for the performance of his rites, she had been plentifully sacrificing, in such liquor

as

as ladies of her rank are wont of late years to be regaled with ; — her words were these :

First Woman. ‘ What the devil’s to
‘ be done here ? — Is there any thing to
‘ be seen ?’

To this demand a robust fellow, who by his appearance I took to be a carman or a waggoner, reply’d in these terms :

First Man. ‘ Ay, marry, — the finest
‘ shew, by report, that ever you saw in
‘ your whole life, or may ever see again.’

Second Woman. ‘ What is it ?’

Third Woman. ‘ Why where have you
‘ liv’d, that you have not heard that one
‘ of lady Marvell’s dogs is dead, and lies
‘ in state till the burial ?’

One of the new comers, on this intelligence, clapp’d her hands and cry’d out :

Fourth Woman. ‘ Lord ! — Lord ! —
‘ a dog lie in state ; — what will this
‘ world come to ?’

Second Man. ‘ To no good I am
‘ afraid : — but these quality think they
‘ may

‘ may do any thing ; — if it had been a
 ‘ poor man’s child, I warrant it might
 ‘ lie above ground, and be sent to the
 ‘ parish for a grave, for any care her
 ‘ ladyship would take about it.’

Omnes. ‘ Ay, ay, so they might in-
 ‘ deed.’

An arch wag, who was an apprentice
 in the neighbourhood, on hearing what
 was said, thrust himself in among them,
 and in a sneering voice spoke thus :

Apprentice. ‘ Oh fye, you should treat
 ‘ a person of quality’s dog with more re-
 ‘ spect ; — besides, I have been told that
 ‘ the deceased was lineally descended, by
 ‘ the side of his dam, from a favourite
 ‘ bitch of Oliver Cromwell’s, who was
 ‘ lord protector of England, and that his
 ‘ fire came over from Holland with an
 ‘ officer belonging to the household of King
 ‘ William, of immortal memory.

Second Woman. ‘ What of all that, I
 ‘ am sure I lived servant in as worthy a
 ‘ family as any at all ; — they had a fine
 ‘ dog call’d Cæsar, he was of good king
 ‘ Charles’s breed,—every body lov’d him,
 ‘ he was such a gentle good-natur’d crea-
 ‘ ture ; — but they made no fuss about
 ‘ him

‘ him when he died ; — he was thrown
‘ out upon the dunghil, and there lay
‘ till somebody stole him away for the
‘ sake of his skin.’

I do not doubt but much more would have been said concerning the genealogy of the canine race, if the door had not suddenly been thrown open by a footman in deep mourning, who dismiss’d a great number of those that had been within, and at the same time gave entrance to those who had waited without.

I accompany’d these last, being no less desirous, tho’ I believe for very different reasons, of beholding so extraordinary a scene.

A long passage between the stables brought us into a spacious court-yard, which having cross’d, our conductor shew’d us into a magnificent house, and then into the theatre, where the farce I had heard spoke of was exhibited, — the walls of which were lined with black bays, as was also the floor and cieling ; — the light of Heaven was entirely excluded thence ; but fifty wax tapers, in silver sconces, were placed at an equal distance round the room, with a large lustre in the middle, containing some twenty more,

supply'd the absence of the fun : — at the upper end stood a bier, with the coffin of the deceased, both cover'd with black velvet, and on the lid of the latter was fix'd a silver plate with this inscription engraven on it :

C U P I D,

Who came into this world April 2, 1749,

And departed September 12, 1753.

He lived beloved, and died lamented,

By

Lady MARVELL.

On one side of the bier, and near the feet of the corpse, sat a woman in deep mourning, holding a white handkerchief close to her face, not to wipe off the tears, but to conceal the disdain with which it was overspread at the office imposed on her.

As we approach'd the bier, the footman, who had been our guide, lifted up the lid of the coffin, and obliged us with a view of the body; and certainly there never was a more truly ridiculous and comical sight than the little black nose of the creature, who was of the Dutch mastiff kind, peeping, as it were, out of a shroud of white Venetian sattin.

It

It was pleasant enough to behold the different attitudes of the several spectators; — some lifted up their hands and eyes, in token of the utmost astonishment, — others bit their lips and shook their heads, seeming both to despise and be enraged at so egregious a piece of folly and extravagance; while others held the flaps of their coats or their aprons to hide that laughter, which they found it impossible to restrain; and some there were who had their mouths half open, ready to burst into exclamations, had they not been awed by the consideration of the place they were in, and to which it is not to be doubted but that they plentifully gave a loose when they found themselves more at liberty to do so.

The person who had usher'd in this respectable company saw them also out; — on the door being open'd, another cluster press'd for entrance, but were deny'd; — the undertaker's servants, with two mourning coaches and six, were now come, and the funeral procession was order'd to set out for Mary-le-bon, where, as I afterwards heard, Cupid was to be interr'd in a grave dug for him in a field near the pond.

As I was willing to see the whole of this ceremony, I turn'd back into the room, and was immediately follow'd by the footman, on which ensued this discourse between him and the mock mourner :

Footman. ' Well, mrs. Susan, — the shew is almost over now, and both of us shall soon have done acting.'

Susan. ' It is high time ; — for my part, if it were to have lasted longer I must infallibly have given out, tho' I had lost my place by it ; — to be confined to sit here for a whole day and a half, as mute as a fish, mourning over a dead dog, and exposed to all the mob in the parish ; — sure never was so preposterous a whim.'

Footman. ' I think, indeed, my lady has in this, as Colley says, outdone all her usual outdoings : — however, we have no great reason to complain at the whim, — we have each of us got a good suit of mourning by it.'

Susan. ' That makes some amends, I own.'

Footman.

Footman. ‘ Ay, faith ;—and I can tell
‘ you that poor Catherine has had a
‘ much worse time, while she has sup-
‘ ply’d your place in waiting upon the
‘ living dogs above-stairs, than you have
‘ had in pretending to bewail the dead
‘ one below.’

Susan. ‘ As how ? — what is the
‘ matter ?’

Footman. ‘ Why my lady has done
‘ nothing but scold at her all this morn-
‘ ing ; — she says she heard Pompey
‘ howl last night, and she is sure his bed
‘ was not made easy ; — and that Psyche
‘ could not eat her breakfast because it
‘ was not brought up in a china basin.’

Susan. ‘ Oh this is nothing ; — don’t
‘ you remember that her ladyship once
‘ threaten’d to turn me out of doors be-
‘ cause she catch’d me eating a bit of a
‘ shoulder of mutton that was roasted for
‘ these plaguy dogs, when we servants
‘ had nothing for a whole week together
‘ but tough cow-beef.’

Footman. ‘ That was because her lady-
‘ ship has that dish at her own table
‘ sometimes ; — and you know it is an
‘ establish’d

‘ establish’d maxim with her, that for
 ‘ servants to eat of the same victuals
 ‘ their superiors do, makes them sawcy
 ‘ and assuming, — else so many good
 ‘ things would not be kept till they stink
 ‘ rather we should get a taste.’

Susan. ‘ Hush, — hush ; — I think
 ‘ I hear her coming.’

The maid was not mistaken, — a rustling of silks proclaim’d her ladyship’s approach, — she enter’d that moment, with hasty steps, contracted brows, and all the tokens of ill-humour and discontent ; — then, in an imperious tone, spoke to the footman.

Lady Marvel. ‘ I hear mr. Grim does
 ‘ not think fit to attend the funeral himself.’

Footman. ‘ The poor man is not well,
 ‘ it seems, madam, so hopes your ladyship will excuse him, as he has sent four
 ‘ of his best and most solemn looking
 ‘ men to go with the coaches.’

Lady Marvell. ‘ I suppose the impudent fellow thinks it beneath him to attend the funeral of a dog ; — such mean
 ‘ soul’d wretches know not how to make
 ‘ any

‘ any distinction between the cur of a
‘ beggar and the favourite of a woman
‘ of quality ;—but it is the last burial he
‘ shall ever have out of my family,—and
‘ so I shall tell him when I pay his bill.
‘ —And you, sir, have you taken care
‘ that the grave is dug handsome and
‘ deep enough, that my poor creature
‘ may not be taken up for the sake of
‘ his coffin and shroud ?’

Footman. ‘ Yes, my lady, — I gave
‘ orders that it should be two feet broad
‘ and nine feet in the earth at least.’

Lady Marvell. ‘ Gave orders,—gave
‘ orders ; and what, mr. Jacaknapes,
‘ what hinder’d you from going to see
‘ if it was done as it ought to be ?’

Footman. ‘ Your ladyship knows I
‘ was obliged to attend the door.’

Lady Marvell. ‘ You have always
‘ some pretence or other for not doing as
‘ you should ;—servants are certainly the
‘ greatest plagues in life ;—but, as every
‘ thing is ready, call in the fellows to
‘ screw up the coffin. — No, hold, — I
‘ must first take my leave of my poor
‘ dear creature ; — farewell, my pretty
‘ little Cupid : — ’tis a sad thing ; — but

‘ we must all die.—Susan, as soon as the
‘ burial is over, come directly up to your
‘ other masters and mistresses; for they
‘ have been strangely used these two
‘ days: — never was a woman of quality’s family so handled: — Catherine
‘ is not fit to be dog-maid to a cow-
‘ keeper.’

Her ladyship went out of the room in speaking these words, and the death-hunter’s servants were call’d in; — they brought with them a long mourning cloak and hat-band for the footman, — a scarf for Mrs. Susan, and gloves for each of them; — as soon as they had fasten’d up the coffin, which I perceived they could not do without laughing, the procession set out, — Mrs. Susan bearing the coffin under a velvet pall upon her lap, went in the first coach; — the footman seated himself in the other, and the undertaker’s servants walk’d on each side with their hands upon the doors.

A gaping multitude, who could not think of returning to their own garrets or cellars without having been spectators of all that was to be seen, follow’d with a confused noise, grating enough to the ears, but not at all unsuitable to so ridiculous a solemnity.

For

For my part, my curiosity did not extend so far as to carry me to see monsieur Le Chin deposited in his last receptacle :—it did not, however, stop here ;—the truth is, I promised myself with finding something or other in the upper apartments in this house, no less extraordinary than what I had been presented with below ;—nor did my conjectures deceive me, as I believe the reader will readily allow, before the conclusion of this chapter.

I was, indeed, a little apprehensive of a disappointment, when, after having search'd two handsome fore parlours, I ascended to the first floor and wander'd thro' several rooms, I could neither see nor hear any one living creature ;—but at last the appearance of lady Marvell revived my dying expectations ;—she started out from a closet, which I had not taken notice of, at the end of the gallery, and went hastily up another pair of stairs ; I pursued her steps with equal expedition, and enter'd with her into a spacious chamber, the furniture of which I shall give a description of to the best of my remembrance.

There were no fewer than fourteen beds of different sizes, the largest not

exceeding three feet and a half in height and two in breadth ; but all of them extremely neat and fashionable, with curtains, vallens, and bafes ; each had a matref, a quilted covering, a pillow and fine holland fheets ; — four china foup difhes, full of clear water, were placed at the four corners of the room, and in the middle flood a mahogany table of about two yards long but pretty narrow, and a bench on each fide cover'd with the beft fort of Dutch matting ; — I fhould have been ftrangely puzzled to have guefs'd the meaning of any one thing I faw here, if the dogs, whofe apartment it was, had been abfent.

Would one not rather have thought that this was fome part of a Lilliputian palace, and thefe beds intended for the re-pofe of noblemen attending on the king's perfon, than a kennel for brutes !—but I fhall forbear any animadverfions of my own at this time, and proceed to relate what happen'd after my entrance into a place which I confeffs fill'd me with much aftonifhment.

A maid, whom I foon afterwards found to be the fame I had heard mention'd by the footman in his difcourfe with Susan, was fitting in a low chair, with a large
tray.

tray, before her fill'd with a great number of combs, one of which she was then making use of in smoothing and setting in order the hair of a fine spaniel she held upon her lap ; — lady Marvell, seeing what she was about, said to her with great peevishness :

Lady Marvell. ‘ A fine time of day, indeed, for what you are about ; — my family of creatures ought all to have been spruced up and adjusted three hours ago ; — but I suppose you were sleeping in your bed, when you ought to have been waiting on them.

Then drawing a little nearer to her, — and seeing the comb she was using, snatch'd it out of her hand, and struck it into her face with such a force that the blood started out from every pore, crying at the same time :

Lady Marvell. ‘ Monster, how dare you touch Hector with this comb ?’

Maid. ‘ Indeed, my lady, they were all here ; I did not know any difference.’

Lady Marvell. ‘ You lye, huffy, and you must have heard that all my dogs have each of them a set of combs to

‘ themselves, with their names wrote
 ‘ upon them, — Can’t you read, oaf?’

Maid. ‘ Indeed, madam, I did not
 ‘ see it.’

Lady Marvell. ‘ Take that then, —
 ‘ you flut,—and that,—and that to clear
 ‘ your fight, and make you remember
 ‘ another time.’

These words were accompany’d with blows, first on one shoulder, then on the other, till I believe her own arms aaked with the fatigue; — then turning to her dogs, who were crying and yelping all this time, address’d them in these terms :

Lady Marvell. ‘ The dear good-na-
 ‘ tured things; — you hate to see me
 ‘ angry, tho’ it be in your own cause.—
 ‘ Come hither, Psyche, — you have lost
 ‘ your lover; — but I will get you another
 ‘ Cupid. — Prince, — what makes you so
 ‘ dull this morning? — you don’t frisk
 ‘ and caper about as you used do; — I
 ‘ suppose your bed was not made any
 ‘ more than Pompey’s; — you look as if
 ‘ you had lain rough all night. — Here is
 ‘ my poor Bully too, — as I live not so
 ‘ much as the black tuft on his tail
 ‘ comb’d out. — Fidell, why do you
 ‘ bark?’

‘bark? — you have something to tell
‘me now, if you knew how. — Well,
‘— you have all been sadly managed
‘these two days, since your own maid
‘has been from you. — Come, Cloe;
‘come and kiss your lady: — poh, your
‘mouth is all nasty, that impudent quean
‘has not wash’d your face.’

Maid. ‘Indeed, madam, I wash’d
‘every one of them, your ladyship may
‘see the towel yonder is all over wet.’

Lady Marvell. ‘The towel, — why,
‘you audacious puffs, have you presum’d
‘to wash all their faces with one towel? —
‘get out of my sight, toad, — devil, or
‘I shall break your neck down stairs.’

It is likely this was the most comfortable command the poor maid could have received; — she staid not to be bid a second time; — she flew out of the room while her furious lady sent a thousand curses after her.

She was no sooner alone with her dogs, which were thirteen in number, than she began to re-examine them, in hopes, no doubt, of finding some farther matter of accusation against the poor maid; but was interrupted by the sudden coming in
of

of her husband, fir Patient Marvell, who; tho' the best natured man in the world, could not forbear being a little ruffled at the transactions of that morning, and accosted her in this manner :

Sir Patient. ' I wonder, madam, you will expose yourself in this fashion.'

Lady Marvell. ' Expose myself, fir Patient.'

Sir Patient. ' Yes, madam, both yourself and me too. — You do not know how much you have render'd us the common table-talk of the town.'

Lady Marvell. ' I despise the town and all it can say. — But pray on what occasion?'

Sir Patient. ' How can you ask that question? — Here hath been I know not how many messages sent to enquire after our health. — Undertakers men have been seen to come into the house with bales of cloth, sconces, and other utensils, for a pompous mourning. — What could people think of all this, as we have no children, but that either you or I were dead?'

Lady

Lady Marvell. ‘ Pish, no body could
‘ think any such thing :—the little solemn-
‘ nity I order’d for my poor Cupid, was
‘ only in the back part of the house ;
‘ and those who, out of respect to me,
‘ came to take their last leaves of the
‘ dear animal pass’d through the stables :
‘ —he was carry’d out of town by day-
‘ light, to be interr’d, and no more than
‘ two coaches, with the dog-maid and
‘ one footman, assisted at the obsequies.’

Sir Patient. ‘ Oh, madam, it was
‘ ridiculous ;—and I must tell you, that
‘ the keeping of so many dogs, and in
‘ the manner you do, is equally so.’

Lady Marvell. ‘ Sir Patient, I brought
‘ a fortune large enough to keep what-
‘ ever I please, and in what manner I
‘ please ; — you have no reason to com-
‘ plain.—What would you say, if instead
‘ of dogs I kept a gallant ?’

Sir Patient. ‘ Why really, madam, I
‘ know not whether it would make me
‘ more laugh’d at, or yourself more
‘ censur’d.’

‘ *Lady Marvell.* ‘ Mighty well, fir-
‘ Patient, mighty well indeed ; — this is
‘ fine

‘ fine treatment for a woman of my un-
 ‘ blemish’d virtue ;—there are some wives
 ‘ who would not fail to shew you the
 ‘ difference between keeping a few harm-
 ‘ less animals and a fellow ; and if I
 ‘ refrain from doing the latter, it is as
 ‘ mr. Rowe makes Arbafia tell her ty-
 ‘ rant :’

Not that I fear, or love, or reverence
 thee ;
 But that my soul, conscious of whence
 she sprung,
 Sits unpolluted in her sacred dwelling,
 And scorns to mingle with a thought so
 mean.

Sir Patient. ‘ Virtue has many branches,
 ‘ madam, besides chastity, and I could
 ‘ wish you would remember that the care
 ‘ of not giving offence is not the last
 ‘ among them.’

Lady Marvell. ‘ I never aimed to
 ‘ give offence, but shall be under no
 ‘ concern about those who take it with-
 ‘ out cause.’

Sir Patient. ‘ Well, madam, I hope
 ‘ you will one day consider what you
 ‘ owe to your own character ; and also
 ‘ think

‘ think that it is some part of your duty
‘ not to render me unhappy.’

He said no more, but as he left the room a deep sigh issued from his breast, at which his lady, however, seem’d as little affected as she had been with his remonstrances; — the moment he was gone she resum’d that discourse with her dogs which his coming had broke off, and which I had already been too much tired with hearing to stay the continuance of, so went directly out of the house, tho’ not without a very troubled mind, to have found a lady, who had every requisite to command respect, take a pride in making herself contemptible.



CHAP.



C H A P. III.

Is a kind of a warning-bell to the public, and gives a melancholy, tho' a too common proof, that a person in endeavouring, by unjust or imprudent measures, to avoid falling into an imaginary misfortune is frequently liable to bring on effectually what otherwise might never have happen'd.

OF all the passions which distract the human mind, sure there is none more pernicious in its quality, or more dreadful in its consequences, than jealousy;—it is look'd upon, indeed, as the most certain proof of a strong and violent affection; yet it is such a proof as no one would wish to experience, as it infallibly involves the beloved object in a variety of disquiets, whether innocent or guilty; — nor is the person possess'd of this raging fury less wretched; — so just are these words of mr. Dryden :

- ‘ O jealousy ! thou raging ill,
- ‘ Why hast thou found a place in
- ‘ lovers hearts ?
- ‘ Afflicting what thou can’st not kill,
- ‘ And poisoning love himself with his
- ‘ own darts.

And as the inimitable Shakspear yet more emphatically, in my opinion, expresses it :

- ‘ O what damn’d minutes tells he o’er,
- ‘ Who doats, yet doubts ; suspects,
- ‘ yet strongly loves.

But it is altogether needless to bring any testimonies from printed quotations on this head ; — even those who have happily lived free from the direful passion in their bosoms, or never felt the effects of it from those by whom they are beloved, cannot but have seen, among their acquaintance, enough to convince them better of its malignity, than they can be by the pen of any author.

But as jealousy frequently takes possession of the soul by almost imperceptible degrees, the following little narrative may serve as an antidote against its poison, and warn every one, married persons

sons especially, not to give way to its first attacks, lest it should be in time wholly subdued by it.

Cleora had from her very infancy been promised in marriage to the son of a neighbouring gentleman, — about three years older than herself; an inclination for her intended husband grew up with her years, nor was his affection less tender for her, whom he expected would one day be his wife; but when the innocent pair became ripe for the consummation of their mutual wishes, an unhappy dispute happen'd between their parents, which entirely broke off the match at once, and they were forbid to see each other any more.

As I was not at that time acquainted with either of the lovers, I cannot pretend to describe what their young hearts sustain'd in this cruel separation; — it was, doubtless, very grievous to them both at first; — but absence, and variety of amusements, provided for them by their respective parents, in order to dissipate their chagrin, by degrees wrought the desir'd effects: — Leander, for so he was call'd, grew one of the gayest men about the town; and Cleora was so far wean'd from the remembrance of him,
that

that she obey'd her father without reluctance in receiving the addresses of Aristus, who, after the necessary forms of courtship, became her husband.

Few nuptials gave a greater promise of felicity ; — the births, — the fortunes of the wedded pair were equal ; — their ages perfectly agreeable ; — she was not quite nineteen, and he no more than five and twenty ; — she was a very lovely woman, — he a most graceful man. — He had adored her to so romantic a height, that it was thought, if he had not obtain'd her, a dagger or a bowl of poison must have been his fate : — she treated him with all the tenderness that could be expected from a virtuous woman by a reasonable man : — they were, in the first months of their marriage, the envy and admiration of as many as knew them.

But alas, how uncertain is the date of human happiness ! — When Heaven is not pleased to bestow on us a contented mind ; I mean, when we do not ask that blessing and endeavour to acquire it, in vain indulgent fortune lavishes her whole stock of bounties on us ; — we repine amidst our plenty, — enjoy nothing we possess, and are wretches because we will be so.

The

The bridal house, so lately the theatre of joy and pleasure, soon became the cell of gloomy fullness and black despair; — the eyes of the beautiful Cleora were frequently seen red with weeping; — she ceased to appear at any public place, and received very little company at home; while on the brow of the once chearful gay Aristus now lower'd a heavy melancholy, and all the indications of a deep inward grief.

Every one saw the change, but none could presently discern the cause; — it could not, however, long be kept a secret; — the servants who waited immediately on their persons were the first who discover'd it, these reported it to the others, and they fail'd not to whisper to as many as they were acquainted with, — that their master was prodigiously jealous of his lady.

The first tokens he gave of this frenzy, as I have been since inform'd, was to debar Cleora from going to the opera, — the play, — the masquerade, and all routs and assemblies, all which places she had been accusom'd to frequent: — she obey'd him, notwithstanding, without murmur or repining; and told him,
with

with a great deal of sweetness, that if those diversions were infinitely dearer to her than ever they had been, she would readily sacrifice all the pleasure she took in them, to that of testifying her love and duty to him.

Not contented with this he proceeded farther, and forbid her to make any visits without him, except to his mother, who lived but in the next street: — and then to let him know, that he might meet her there and bring her home; — hard as this injunction seem'd to her, she comply'd with it, being resolved, if possible, to chase from his mind all those ideas she found he had conceived in prejudice of her discretion, and convince him that she regarded nothing so much as his satisfaction.

What more could woman do, or man expect? — yet all was not enough to make this jealous husband easy: — whenever they were abroad together, if any gentleman happen'd to be in company, the least gallant thing said to her, or complaisance return'd to it by her, immediately set the worm within his brain a madding, and made him, on their coming home, reproach her in terms very unbecoming in him to make use of, and difficult for her

her to bear with patience ;—yet, nevertheless, he still loved her,—loved her to an excess ;—but, as the poet says,

- ‘ No signs of love in jealous men re-
‘ mains,
- ‘ But that which sick men have of
‘ life, their pains.

In fine, this behaviour of Aristus engross’d much of the conversation of the town, and various were the conjectures pass’d upon it ; — some highly blamed him ; — others were apt to imagine there had really been some imprudences on the part of Cleora ; and not a few there were among her own sex who, hating her for those very perfections which ought to have excited their esteem, scrupled not to pronounce her guilty of every thing she could be suspected of.

Much was this lady to be pitied,—deprived of all those pleasures to which her youth had been accusom’d, — ill treated by her husband, — censured by her acquaintance, and secluded from the society of those who might have found means of diverting, if not wholly dissipating her melancholy.

To

To add to her misfortune, she had no friend near her to whom she might complain;—her father, being a widower, had broke up house keeping soon after her marriage, and was retired with an intent to pass the remainder of his days with her elder sister, who was settled in a far distant county; so that the only person from whom she received any consolation was miss Lucia, the sister of Aristus, a young lady of great good nature, and who believing her truly innocent, used her utmost endeavours to put all chimeras to her prejudice out of her brother's head.

The discourses which continually fill'd my ears about this family, and the different opinions the world had of the manner of their living together, made me resolve to have recourse to my Invisibility, in order to discover which was in the right.

Accordingly I went one day, equipped as usual, with my Belt and Tablet, to make a visit at their house,—Aristus was abroad, but I found Cleora sitting in a very pensive posture in her dressing-room.

I had not been there above two minutes before the waiting-maid came in, and ask'd her lady whether she would be pleased to walk into the next room, or have tea brought in where she was ; to which she reply'd :

Cleora. ' I do not know as yet. — Has any body been here from my sister Lucia ?'

Maid. ' No, madam.

Cleora. ' Well then, get things ready in the drawing-room, — I believe she will be here presently ; — she was from home when John went to tell her I desired her company ; but as she was expected soon, and must have heard of my message, she would certainly have sent an excuse if any thing had happen'd to prevent her coming.'

She had but just given over speaking, and the maid withdrawn to do as she was order'd, than her footman came in and presented her with a letter, which he told her was left for her by a porter, who said it requir'd no answer, and was gone.

I must

I must confess, that on hearing this I was guilty of great injustice to the fair Cleora, and began to be apprehensive that her husband's suspicions were in reality founded on too solid reasons; but I was soon ashamed of my rash judgment, when slipping behind her chair, and looking over her shoulder as she read, I perceived the letter was from miss Lucia, and contain'd these lines :

TO CLEORA.

“ Dear SISTER,

“ **W**Ords cannot express how greatly
“ I am troubled, on finding my-
“ self oblig'd to send this instead of wait-
“ ing on you in person; — be assured I
“ love and value your conversation as I
“ ought, and shall no less suffer in being
“ depriv'd of it, Heaven knows for how
“ long a time, than you will do in the
“ knowledge of the cause: — in fine,
“ some idle stories, of which, I dare be-
“ lieve, my brother's unhappy caprice
“ has been the sole occasion, have reach'd
“ the ears of my mamma, and made her
“ think it improper for me to be seen
“ with you, while the world continues
“ to judge of you in the manner it does
“ at present; — she heard of your message

“ to me, and strictly forbid me to obey
“ the summons ; — you know too well,
“ my dear Cleora, what duty is owing
“ from a child to a parent, and also how
“ much my father’s will has left me in
“ her power, to resent the painful proof
“ I now give of my obedience to her ;—
“ I wish, for my own sake as well as
“ yours, that she, my brother, and
“ every one that knows us, were as well
“ convinced as myself of your perfect in-
“ nocence ; but, till that happy time ar-
“ rives, must content myself with the
“ memory of the many happy hours we
“ have pass’d together, and the hopes of
“ many more yet to come, when once
“ the horrid cloud which now separates
“ us is removed.—Farewell,—that Hea-
“ ven may send you comfort under your
“ present affliction, and speedily relieve
“ you from it, shall be the constant
“ prayers of her, who is,

“ With the greatest sincerity,

“ My very dear Cleora,

“ Your most affectionate sister

“ And humble servant,

“ LUCIA.

“ P. S.

“ P. S. Tho’ my mamma intends to
“ talk to you upon this head herself, she
“ would not pardon my giving you any
“ hint of it; for which reason I durit
“ not trust any of our servants to convey
“ this to you, but send it by a strange
“ porter; and beg that, for fear of ac-
“ cidents, you will commit it to the
“ flames as soon as read. — Once more,
“ my dear sister, I bid you, with an
“ aking heart, adieu.”

Scarce had she gone through half this epistle before her countenance betray’d the effect it produced; — disdain, — and rage, — and grief, seemed now to have united all their force to raise a tempest in her mind, which immediatly broke forth in these and the like exclamations :

Cleora. ‘ Deprived of my poor Lucia
‘ too, — and on so shocking a pretence !
‘ — Good Heaven, for what unknown
‘ crime of mine, or of my ancestors, am
‘ I link’d into such a family ! — Mother
‘ and son alike unjust, ungrateful, base,
‘ tyrannic ! — Have I renounced all the
‘ gay amusements of life, — submitted
‘ my temper to the will of an imperious
‘ husband, and made it my whole study
‘ to oblige him, to meet at last with this
D 3 ‘ unge-

‘ ungenerous, this barbarous return ! —
 ‘ My virtue suspected, my reputation
 ‘ traduced, and my conversation shunn’d
 ‘ as a disgrace !—Oh, tis too much,—too
 ‘ much for human patience to sustain !’

It was for some time before she could compose herself enough to finish the perusal of what Lucia had wrote to her ; — and after she had done so, relapsed into agitations more violent, if possible, than the former, — with gestures, and a tone of voice which denoted the extremest bitterness of heart, she cry’d out :’

Cleora. ‘ And must I always bear this
 ‘ usage ! — be condemn’d to drag on a
 ‘ life of lasting wretchedness and infamy !
 ‘ —no, I cannot,—will not.—Oh Heaven,
 ‘ who knowest my perfect innocence, send me the means to clear, or
 ‘ to revenge my wounded fame !’

Many other expressions of the same nature did her passion vent, till at last, recollecting the request Lucia had made in the postscript of her letter, she snatch’d it hastily from off her toylet and thrust it into the fire, saying at the same time :

Cleora. ‘ Poor Lucia, however, must
 ‘ not suffer for her friendship to me.’

Aristus

Aristus being return'd home, was that instant coming up stairs, which being opposite to the room where Cleora was, and the door open, he had an opportunity of beholding this last action, tho' not of hearing the words which accompany'd it;—he flew like lightning to the chimney in order to save the paper, not doubting but it contain'd something that might add fresh fuel to his jealousy; but, nimble as he was, the flames were yet more quick, and left not the least part of what he so much wanted unconsumed.

This disappointment, join'd with what he had seen Cleora do, so much inflamed him, that looking on her with eyes sparkling with indignation, he saluted her with this reproach:

Aristus. 'I perceive, madam, you will
' be still too cunning for me; — your
' lovers having so cautious a mistress
' have little to fear from the resentment
' of an injured husband; — yet, had I
' come a moment sooner, I might per-
' haps have discover'd enough in that
' paper to have silenced all your future
' boastings of virtue and fidelity.'

Cleora. ‘ Oh, sir, you need be under
‘ no apprehensions on that score; — the
‘ continuance of your base suspicions de-
‘ serve not that I should be at any pains
‘ to undeceive you.’

Aristus. ‘ No, — ’twou’d be in vain;
‘ — too well I know you; — know all
‘ your vows and asseverations false as
‘ your prostituted heart; — nor can you,
‘ — dare you now, attempt to justify
‘ yourself, after the glaring proof I have
‘ received of your infidelity.’

Cleora. ‘ What proof?’

Aristus. ‘ That paper, — perfidious
‘ woman; — that paper, whose ashes, if
‘ they could speak, would rise in judg-
‘ ment against you; they are, however,
‘ silent evidences of your shame and my
‘ dishonour.’

Cleora. ‘ This is madness, or some
‘ new pretext to use me ill. — Pray what
‘ can the most injurious of your imagi-
‘ nations suggest on the burning of a bit
‘ of paper?’

Aristus. ‘ Did I not observe your
‘ countenance while throwing the lewd
‘ scrawl

‘scrawl into the fire? — Did not your
‘gloating eyes pursue it as you would
‘the fellow from whom it came? —
‘Were not all the marks of guilt and
‘confusion on your cheeks on my ap-
‘proach? — But this is not all; — I was
‘told below that you had just received a
‘letter by a porter: — answer to that,
‘thou hypocrite. — Does it become a
‘married woman, of your rank and cir-
‘cumstances, to receive letters brought
‘by such messengers?’

Cleora. ‘A married woman! — say
‘rather, a married wretch; for such
‘are all who have husbands like Aristus.’

Aristus. ‘Still you evade the question;
‘— but if you would not deserve to be
‘the wretch you call yourself, — be once
‘sincere, and tell me from which of your
‘pretended admirers that letter came.’

Cleora. ‘From none.’

Aristus. ‘Perhaps then some female
‘agent, — some sly promoter of your
‘amorous intrigues: — but no equivoca-
‘tions; — explain the whole of this dark
‘mystery, or by Heaven my sword shall
‘rip the secret from your breast.’

Cleora. ‘ Do, — kill me, — it is the
 ‘ only act of kindness you can shew, and
 ‘ all I now wish to receive from you.’

Aristus. ‘ So daring in your crimes,
 ‘ — abandon’d creature ; — but get out
 ‘ of my sight this moment, lest I be
 ‘ indeed provok’d to do a deed I might
 ‘ hereafter repent of : — much as you
 ‘ have wrong’d me, I should be loth to
 ‘ send your polluted soul to everlasting
 ‘ perdition.’

Cleora. ‘ Monster ! — but to quit
 ‘ your presence is a command I shall al-
 ‘ ways be ready to obey.’

It was with an unspeakable haughtiness that Cleora utter’d these words as she flung out of the room. — I am apt to believe, by the amazement Aristus now appear’d in, that this was the first time she had ever testify’d any great marks of resentment for his ill treatment of her ; — he stood for some moments in a profound reverſery, and when he came out of it, lifted up his hands and eyes to heaven, ſaying,

Aristus. ‘ Good God ! nothing but
 ‘ the moſt perfect innocence, or the moſt
 ‘ con-

‘ consummate guilt, could inspire a woman with so much boldness. — I know not what to think.’

Then folding his arms, again seem’d lost in meditation, which having indulged awhile, the subject of it burst out in these words :

Aristus. ‘ If she were innocent, wherefore should she conceal from me the contents of that curfed letter ? — No, — ’tis too plain she is guilty ; — in vain would my fond heart, that still doats on her, find excuses for her behaviour ; — yet it would be some ease to be convinced ; but tis impossible, — she has too much art. — How true, O Dryden, are thy words :

False women to new joys’ unseen can
move,
There are no prints left in the paths of
love :
All other goods by public marks are
known ;
But this, we most desire to keep, has
none.

After this he walk’d several times backwards and forwards in the room, then ran hastily down stairs, as I imagin’d.

gin'd, in search of Cleora ; but finding he did not, and went out of the house, I also left it too, having an engagement of my own that evening.

~~CHAPTER IV.~~

CHAP. IV.

In which the reader is requested to expect no more than a continuation of the same narrative begun in the preceding chapter ; and which has in it too great a multiplicity of incidents to be fully concluded in this.

THE distress in which I had left the beautiful Cleora, and the knowledge I now had of her innocence, very much affected me, and I must either have chang'd my nature, or have lost that happy Gift of Invisibilty, which enabled me to discover almost every thing, not to have flown the next morning to the house of Aristus, in order to inform myself what effects the conversation of the preceding night had produced.

I truly pitied the unhappy pair, for though Aristus was unjust and cruel in his suspicions, yet I plainly saw he suffer'd
no

no less in his own mind than what he inflicted on his much injur'd wife ; — especially when I reflected that he was not guilty through a want of affection for her, but a too violent excess of it ; as is observed by one of our best English poets :

- ‘ The greater care, the higher passion
- ‘ shews,
- ‘ We hold that dearest, we most fear
- ‘ to lose.

Indeed I soon found, how much more than I could even have imagined, this offending husband deserved my commiseration ; — he was abroad, and Cleora not yet risen from her bed, when I made my visit, which, as near as I can remember, was somewhat past eleven o'clock ; — resolved, however, not to lose my labour entirely, I had recourse for intelligence to the tatlers of the kitchen, whom, according to my wish, I found busy in discourse on the very point I wanted.

Some took the part of their master, — some of their lady ; and upon the whole, I found that a second quarrel having ensued after Aristus came home, Cleora had refused either to sup or sleep with him ; but lay in a bed she had order'd

to be prepar'd for her in another room, on which he went not to his own, but continued the whole night walking about the house, and behaved like a man totally deprived of reason ; — I shall relate some few of the animadversions made by these speculative gentry on this occasion.

Footman. ‘ Well, if I were a gentleman like my master, I would not make myself so uneasy for all the women in the world.’

House-maid. ‘ Never talk of it, William ; — if a man will be jealous of his wife without a cause, he deserves to suffer.’

Cook. ‘ Ay faith, Margery, and if he had some women she would soon shew him the difference, and make him jealous for something.’

Footman. ‘ You may say what you will, but there must be something in it ; — ’tis plain he loves her to distraction, and would never be in such passions with her if he did not see things that we know nothing of.’

House-maid. ‘ You are a censorious fool for thinking as you do ; — my lady

‘ lady is as good a woman as ever was
‘ born, and I dare say as virtuous ;—’tis
‘ nothing but the devil that puts such
‘ notions in my master’s head ; — and
‘ ’tis well if some time or other, when he
‘ is in these freaks, if he does not do
‘ either her or himself a mischief.’

Cook. ‘ So it is, indeed, Margery ;
‘ — I met him upon the stairs this morn-
‘ ing, and methought he look’d for all
‘ the world as if he was going to make
‘ himself away.’

The footman was just opening his mouth to make some answer when the valet-de-chambre came into the kitchen, and being ask’d if he knew where his master was gone, he reply’d that he did, and that he was gone to wait upon his mother ; on which she that had spoke last cry’d out :

Cook. ‘ His mother, — he will be
‘ much the better for that ; — she has a
‘ good hand, as I have heard say, at
‘ making bad worse ;—I remember Sarah
‘ that is just gone away overheard her tell
‘ my master, that my lady kept too much
‘ company, and went too often to the
‘ play, and a heap of such stuff ; and I
‘ believe it is all owing to her that my
‘ poor

‘ poor lady is so much confined as she
‘ has been of late.’

Valet. ‘ Hold your tongue, Cook, —
‘ she is a very worthy fine old lady, —
‘ has seen the world, — is a great œco-
‘ nomist, and nobody can blame her for
‘ inspecting a little into her son’s affairs ;
‘ — and it does not become you to talk
‘ in this manner of your betters.’

Cook. ‘ Marry come up, my good
‘ essence-bottle ; — I warrant you think
‘ that your bag-wig and flourish’d ruffles
‘ must give laws to the whole family ;
‘ but I shall talk of whom I please and
‘ of what I please, without asking your
‘ leave or any body’s else, as long as I
‘ speak nothing but the truth.’

At this instant the footman, on a pretty loud knocking at the door, put his head through the window of the area, and crying, — ‘ Here is my master,’ ran hastily up to give him entrance ; — I followed as fast as I could, being more curious to see how Aristus would behave, than to hear what would be the issue of the contest between the Cook and Valet.

I stood close in the corner of an arch
in the passage while he pass’d by, and
could

could see nothing in his countenance of that ferocity the servants had been describing; — on the contrary, a perfect composure seem'd to me to sit upon all his features, and left not the least traces of dissatisfaction.

I attended him to a chamber, which, as I afterwards perceived, was the same that Cleora had made choice on for her repose, if it were possible for her to take any, the preceding night; — he knock'd gently at the door, but finding it not readily open'd, retired and went into the dining-room, where he call'd a servant and bid him seek his wife's waiting-maid, and order her to come immediately to him.

The young woman presently appear'd, tho' I easily discern'd not without some tremor of the nerves, expecting, perhaps, to participate in the effects of her master's displeasure; — her countenance, however, grew more assured when he spoke in the most courteous accents, saying,

Aristus. 'Is your lady awake yet,
'mrs. Betty?'

Waiting-maid. 'Yes, sir.'

Aristus.

Aristus. ‘ Then give my compliments
 ‘ to her,—let her know I am come home
 ‘ to breakfast, and ask if she will have
 ‘ the tea served where she is, or in her
 ‘ own dressing-room as usual.’

Waiting-maid. ‘ Sir, you may be sure
 ‘ I shall be punctual in delivering your
 ‘ honour’s commands to her.’

Aristus. ‘ Say rather my intreaties,
 ‘ mrs. Betty;—for tho’ I may be a little
 ‘ out of humour sometimes, as it hap-
 ‘ pen’d last night, yet I cannot think it
 ‘ becoming in our sex to exercise any
 ‘ authority over the ladies.’

She said no more, and after making a low curtsy went out of the room, very much surpris’d at this sudden turn, as indeed was I, after what I had seen and heard; nor was able to determine as yet, whether the extraordinary complaisance he shew’d was real or affected;—I was soon convinced, however, — that it was the former, when the maid return’d with this answer to his message:

Waiting-maid. ‘ Sir, my lady desires
 ‘ to be excus’d; — she has got a violent
 ‘ head-ach, and begs not to be disturb’d.’

Aristus.

Aristus. ‘ Tell her I bring her news
‘ that will make her well ;—no, — hold,
‘ —I will go myself.’

With these last words he flew to the chamber, and pushing open the door, which was now unlock’d, found his wife sitting in a very melancholy and dejected posture ;—she started up at sight of him, and without giving him leave to speak accosted him in these terms :

Cleora, ‘ ’Tis hard that no part of a
‘ house, of which I am flatter’d with the
‘ name of mistress, can protect me from
‘ the insults of a man who certainly mar-
‘ ried me with no other view than to
‘ make me miserable.’

Aristus. ‘ Oh say not so,—I will soon
‘ convince you to the contrary ; — nor
‘ shall you ever more have cause to fly
‘ the presence of Aristus ;—I own I have
‘ been to blame, have said and done a
‘ thousand things that I am ashamed to
‘ think on. — But why, my dear Cleora,
‘ did you raise my passion to that guilty
‘ height ? — Why conceal from me the
‘ author and contents of the letter which
‘ gave me so much pain ?’

Cleora.

Cleora. ‘ It would be easy for me to
‘ justify my refusal.’

Aristus. ‘ I know it would, my angel,
‘ full well I know it would ; — but I am
‘ now let into the secret without your
‘ being guilty of a breach of friendship
‘ to oblige me.’

Cleora. ‘ What is it you mean,
‘ Aristus?’

Aristus. ‘ I have been this morning at
‘ my mother’s, where speaking of our
‘ unhappy quarrel, and the motive of it,
‘ my sister immediately changed counte-
‘ nance, and after vindicating your con-
‘ duct with the utmost vehemence, and
‘ severely condemning mine, confess’d it
‘ was herself had sent that letter to you
‘ by a porter, and had desir’d you to
‘ burn it as soon as read.’

Cleora. ‘ Dear Lucia ! — oh that the
‘ brother had the sister’s temper.’

Aristus. ‘ Brother and sister are equal-
‘ ly devoted to you ; — if Lucia were
‘ Aristus, she would do as Aristus does ;
‘ and if Aristus were Lucia, he would
‘ act like Lucia : — the difference of
‘ sexes

‘sexes makes all the difference in our
‘sentiments or behaviour; — her’s is a
‘tender friendship,—mine a raging love,
‘which while happy in your possession,
‘trembles at even the most distant possi-
‘bility of ever being less so.’

Cleora. ‘Can it be love that suspects
‘my virtue?’

Aristus. ‘By Heaven, my cooler mo-
‘ments have never set you down as ca-
‘pable of wronging me or dishonouring
‘yourself; but when passion rages in the
‘soul, reason has little government over
‘our thoughts or words. — I know I
‘have been much to blame; — but oh,
‘Cleora, forgive a fault occasion’d only
‘by an excess of fondness; — so dear I
‘prize you, that I envy the very air that
‘breathes upon your lips, and wish to
‘grow for ever there and keep out all
‘intruders.’

Cleora. ‘But do you consider how
‘wretched this causeless jealousy has
‘made me?’

Aristus. ‘Yes, and could tear out
‘my heart for having ever harbour’d the
‘least unjust suspicion of you; yet have
‘I suffer’d torments much greater than
‘was

‘ was in my power to inflict. — Could
 ‘ you be sensible of the agonies I felt
 ‘ during this last whole cruel night, you
 ‘ must, you would forgive and pity me.’

Cleora. ‘ Mine have not been less ;—
 ‘ yet could I forget all, had my reputa-
 ‘ tion been untouch’d by your ill usage ;
 ‘ — you now know the purport of your
 ‘ sister’s letter ; and can you think it
 ‘ possible for me to support with pati-
 ‘ ence, the being look’d upon by your
 ‘ kindred as a disgrace to the family I
 ‘ am come among ?’

Aristus. ‘ Think not so, my dear
 ‘ Cleora, — my sister was always assur’d
 ‘ of your innocence, and a strenuous
 ‘ vindicator of every thing you did ;—my
 ‘ mother never thought worse than that
 ‘ some little inadvertencies in your con-
 ‘ duct had wrought me up to the follies
 ‘ I have been guilty on, which she has
 ‘ just now severely chid me for : — they
 ‘ will both wait on you this afternoon,
 ‘ and give you all the proofs in their
 ‘ power of the sincere respect and tender-
 ‘ ness they have for you.’

Cleora. ‘ Well, Aristus, if I could
 ‘ be certain that this was the last trial
 ‘ you would make of my good-nature, I
 ‘ might,

‘ might, perhaps, endeavour to think no
‘ more on what is past.’

Aristus. ‘ If ever I fall back into my
‘ former errors despise me, — hate, —
‘ think me the worst of men ; — no, be
‘ assured I am too much ashamed of what
‘ I have been, ever to be the like again ;
‘ and as a proof of the perfect confi-
‘ dence I now have in you, henceforward
‘ keep what company you please, I shall
‘ prescribe no rules for your conduct, I
‘ shall leave all to yourself, and be sa-
‘ tisfied that all you do is right.’

Cleora. ‘ I shall take the less liberty
‘ for your granting me so much : — but
‘ if you should relapse, remember what
‘ a certain celebrated author of our sex
‘ says on this occasion :

We women to ourselves this justice
owe,
That those who think us false should
find us so.’

She spoke this with so enchanting a
smile, that Aristus, tho’ not yet quite
sure that what he did would be agreeable,
could not forbear catching her in his
arms, and holding her for some time
lock’d in the most strict embrace, — then
letting

letting her loose, and looking on her with the extreme tenderness, cry'd,

Aristus. 'Do you then forgive me?'

Cleora. 'I do.'

With these words she threw her snowy arms about his neck, put her face close to his, returning all the endearments he had just before given her;—after which, — that is, as soon as the transport he was in would give him leave to speak, he said,

Aristus. 'My for ever ador'd Cleora, depend upon it that the whole study of my life shall be to requite this goodness.'

Cleora. 'Treat me but as my actions deserve,—I ask no more:—but come, let us go to breakfast.'

With this they went arm in arm into the next room, where mrs. Betty and the tea equipage waited their approach.

I now left this once more happy pair to enjoy the sweets of their reconciliation; and as I doubted not but the contrition of Aristus would be as lasting, as by many

many indications I had reason to think it was sincere, expected not that any future events, worthy the attention of an Invisible Spy, would happen to call me to their house again.

But, unhappily for the persons concern'd in it, a very few days after convinced me how little I was endow'd with the spirit of prophecy; and also that when once the fatal fire of jealousy has got possession of the mind, tho' it may lie dormant for a while, yet the least wafting of a feather, or even a shadow, is sufficient to give it motion, and kindle the smother'd embers into a blaze.

I was loitering one morning in the Park, the air was serene and not cold; the time of year consider'd, for it was then November;—few people being there; I had an opportunity of indulging contemplation with the wonders of nature, which even in the most barren season affords matter to attract our admiration; and was almost lost in thought, when I was suddenly rous'd from it by the appearance of Cleora, who, in a rich genteel deshabille, came tripping down the walk, and after looking two or three times round her, seated herself on a bench just opposite to St. James's-house;—my surprise

prise to find a lady of her rank alone in that place stopp'd my farther progress, and engaged me to draw pretty near to her, in order to observe whether chance or any particular motive had brought her hither.

In less time than the taking a pinch of snuff would last, Aristus came as from the palace; — he saw his wife at a distance, cross'd over and came to her, saying,

Aristus. 'What are you here, my dear, and alone?'

Cleora. 'You see I am, but I did not expect to be pick'd up by a gentleman this morning.—We are well met, however, and if you have no business that requires your haste, should be glad you would give me your company while I stay, which will not be long.'

Aristus. 'With all my heart,—I was only going to the coffee-house; and in return for my complaisance you shall tell me by what accident I find you here thus unguarded.'

Cleora. 'Can one be unguarded where there are so many soldiers? — But you must know I have been among the shops

‘shops at Charing-Cross and made a
‘great many purchases; — I choose to
‘walk over the Park; — I had William
‘with me, but as I knew the centry
‘would not suffer him to pass through
‘with the things, I sent him home the
‘other way: — when I came hither I
‘found the air so extremely pleasant that
‘I was tempted to sit down and take a
‘little of it, especially as I found no-
‘body here that I thought would take
‘any notice of me:—and now you have
‘the whole history of my morning’s
‘transactions.’

Aristus. ‘A very concise one; — but
‘suppose, my dear, you had met with
‘any of the Bucks, the Bloods, or the
‘Buffs, how would you have escaped
‘their attacks?’

Cleora. ‘Why I would have set my
‘arms akimbo, and look’d as fierce as
‘they: — those sort of ’squires are never
‘bold but to the fearful.’

Finding, by their talking together in
this gay manner, that they continued in
perfect good humour with each other, I
thought I had no business to be an eves-
dropper any longer to their discourse,
and was going to quit the place where I

had stood, when, just as I had taken it into my head to do so, two gentlemen came down the walk, one of whom, in passing by the bench, stopp'd short, look'd earnestly at Cleora, started, made a low bow, and then went on; — she return'd the salute, but with a confusion impossible to be express'd; — she blush'd, — she trembled through every joint, — her fan fell out of her hand, and she was ready to sink herself upon the seat.

A less observing husband than Aristus must have taken notice of this sudden change; but the alarm it gave his jealous heart was such as compell'd him to be speechless for some moments: — Cleora in vain endeavour'd to recompose herself; all the efforts she made to suppress or to conceal her agitations render'd them but the more violent, and consequently the more visible. — Aristus at last broke silence with these words:

Aristus. ' You seem disorder'd, madam; — the sight of these gentlemen has had a strange effect upon you.'

Cleora. ' I was a little surpris'd at the sight of one of them; — but that is not all, — I am not well.'

Aristus.

Aristus. ‘ I see you are not, either in
‘ mind or body ; — my coming was un-
‘ lucky ; had I been absent, you would
‘ doubtless have retain’d your former
‘ gaiety : — but this is no place to ex-
‘ piate on the cause of your disorder, —
‘ I will get one of the soldiers to call a
‘ chair, — ’tis fit you should go home.’

He waited not to hear what answer she would make, but rose hastily up and spoke to one of those who he saw was not on duty ; — the fellow ran to do as he was desired, and presently return’d with a chair :—while he was gone, Cleora had recover’d herself enough to say to Aristus :

Cleora. ‘ I perceive you are beginning
‘ to entertain sentiments to my disad-
‘ vantage ;—but have patience till we get
‘ home, and I shall easily make this matter
‘ clear.’

As he was putting her into the chair she added,

Cleora. ‘ You will follow presently.’

Aristus. ‘ I shall not be long after
‘ you ; tho’ I believe your own medita-
‘ tions,

‘ tions, at this time, will be more agree-
‘ able to you than the company of a
‘ husband.’

I perceived very plainly, by the countenance of Aristus, that a storm was gathering in his breast, which I doubted not but would break forth in thunder; I could not help also being of opinion that there were some appearances on the part of Cleora not much to her advantage; — I thought, however, that the best way to form a true judgment of the accidents of that morning were to see them when they were together, so forbore following either of them, and restrain’d my impatience till the hour in which they usually dined, as being the most likely time to find Aristus at home.

On my coming to their house I found the door open, and a footman in a laced livery sitting on a bench in the hall, as waiting for an answer to some message he brought; — I went directly up to the dining-room; — no person being there I pass’d on to Cleora’s apartment, and found her writing at her bureau; — a letter lay open before her containing these lines :

To

TO CLEORA.

“MADAM,

“I Heard not of your marriage till
“some weeks after it was consumma-
“ted ; and when I did, the hurry of my
“affairs, being then just going to Paris,
“prevented my congratulating you upon
“it ; — I return’d to England but three
“days since, and the first enquiry I made
“was concerning your health and place
“of abode ; but the answers I received
“to these interrogatories were mingled
“with some other informations, which
“make me not quite sure that a visit
“from me might not give offence to
“that happy gentleman who is now your
“husband ; — I would not therefore take
“the liberty of waiting on you till I
“had first received your permission ; —
“it is a blessing I ardently long for, but
“whether proper for you to grant or
“not, I beg you will believe that I am,
“With an esteem too justly grounded
“for change of circumstances to alter,

“MADAM,

“Your most faithfully devoted,

“And most humble servant,

“LEANDER.

The answer given by Cleora to the above billet was as follows :

TO LEANDER.

“ S I R,

“ **T**HAT I still retain a place in
 “ your remembrance demands my
 “ grateful acknowledgments, and I am
 “ sorry to tell you that it is at this di-
 “ stance only I can pay my thanks :—it is
 “ easy for me to guess of what nature the
 “ informations you mention have been,
 “ and think myself obliged so far to con-
 “ firm the truth of them, as to let you
 “ know the favour you intended me is
 “ wholly improper for me to receive;
 “ and to desire you will attempt no fu-
 “ ture correspondence of any kind, with
 “ her who is no longer mistress of her
 “ actions, but who must always preserve
 “ in her heart the best wishes for your
 “ welfare..

“ CLEORA.

Having seal'd this she call'd her maid Betty, and bid her deliver it to the man who waited for it ; — then took up Leander's letter and read it two or three times over to herself with very disturb'd emotions ; — after which she rose hastily
 from

from the posture she had been in, whether with a design to burn, or lay it carefully up, I cannot pretend to say, for her husband that instant flew into the room and snatch'd it out of her hand ;—she shriek'd, and, in my opinion, very imprudently endeavour'd to wrest it from him ;—his stature, as well as strength, being much superior to hers, he held it at arms length and read the contents, in spite of all her weak efforts to hinder it.

Which done he clapp'd it into his pocket, — stamp'd, — bit his lips, — measur'd the room with wild unequal paces, — still as he turn'd darting revengeful glances at the trembling Cleora ; — these, and other such like frantic gestures, introduced the following dialogue between them :

Cleora. ‘ What is there in that letter
‘ can have moved you thus ?’

Aristus. ‘ Was it not sent by him
‘ whose sight this morning threw you into
‘ such disorder.’

Cleora. ‘ I was a little surpris'd at the
‘ sudden appearance of a person I had
‘ not seen for a long time ; but know
E 5 ‘ not

‘not that the disorder I was in proceeded
‘from that cause.’

Aristus. ‘He knew it did, at least,
‘and I suppose sent you this billet by
‘way of consolation..

Cleora. ‘You put an odd interpreta-
‘tion on his words as well as on my
‘looks. Is this, Aristus, the effect of
‘all those promises you so lately made?’

Aristus. ‘When I made those pro-
‘mises I was so weak as to believe there
‘was a possibility of your being faithful;
‘— but I am now convinced of what
‘you are;— know that you are the most
‘vile of women, and I the most accursed
‘of men.’

Cleora. ‘You make yourself, indeed,
‘the one, by your unjust and base suspi-
‘cions; — but no action of mine shall
‘ever prove that I am the other.’

Aristus. ‘Death and furies! — did I
‘not meet the villain’s servant with a
‘letter from you in his hand!’

Cleora. ‘Suppose you did;— I wrote
‘to forbid his coming hither.’

Aristus.

Aristus. ‘ Yes, and no doubt to appoint a place more convenient for your meeting.’

Cleora. ‘ ’Tis false ; — nor would the man whom your suspicions wrong me with, harbour a thought to the prejudice either of my virtue or my reputation. — No, if you had half his honour or his love I should not be the wretch I am.’

Aristus. ‘ Then you confess he loves you ?’

Cleora. ‘ He loved me once, and tho’ Heaven thought fit to break off our intended union, I believe still preserves an esteem for me.’

Aristus. ‘ As you for him. — Hell and vengeance ! — dare you avow this to my face ! — Have I then only the leavings, — the refuse of a beloved rival ! — audacious strumpet !’

In speaking this he struck her so violent a blow over the face, that the blood gush’d from her nose and mouth, on which she cry’d out :

Cleora. ‘Villain! — there wanted but
‘this to prove the baseness of thy abject
‘foul! — but think not that the name of
‘wife shall make me tamely bear such
‘usage; — no, if the laws of England
‘should refuse to do me justice, I will fly
‘to the remotest corner of the earth, and
‘seek a refuge among the less barbarous
‘Hottentots, rather than live beneath the
‘roof, much less sleep in the same bed
‘with such a monster!’

How Ariftus would have behaved on this is uncertain,—a servant that moment enter’d the room, and told him that a gentleman, who it seems he had sent for that morning upon business, was now come to wait upon him; — whatever was in the mind of this distracted husband, he had no farther opportunity of shewing it at present, and only giving a furious look at Cleora, and muttering some inarticulate curses between his teeth as he went out, left her to ruminate on what was past.

She no sooner found herself alone than she rung the bell for her maid, who appear’d quite frighted on seeing her lady in such a condition;—the girl’s exclamations made her turn to the looking-glass, and
the

the injury that had been done to her beauty; it is probable, gave strength to her resentment, and she resolved to put in immediate execution what she had threaten'd Aristus with doing.

Betty had lived with her before her marriage, and was no stranger to the love had been between her and Leander; the enraged fair one therefore scrupled not to make her the confidant of the motive of this last quarrel with her husband, and the intention she had of quitting him for ever; — then, after considering a little in what manner she should manage this affair, gave the following orders :

Cleora. ‘ I would have you take a
‘ hackney-coach for expedition sake, and
‘ go to mrs. Clip’s, the tyre-woman;
‘ who cuts my hair; — I know she lets
‘ lodgings; if she has any apartment
‘ empty, hire it directly; but if her house
‘ happens to be full, do not return with-
‘ out procuring one for me in some other;
‘ for I am determin’d to go this very
‘ afternoon, and shall think every mo-
‘ ment an age till I am out of this de-
‘ tested place.”

While the maid was gone, Cleora set about packing up her cloaths and jewels,
which

which she did with such adroitness and alacrity, that in less than an hour every thing belonging to her was ready to be sent away; — in a little more than that time Betty return'd, and told her that mrs. Clip's first floor being let she had agreed for the parlours, which she said were very handsome, and she believed her ladyship would approve of, at least till a better apartment could be provided.

Cleora was satisfy'd, — another coach was call'd to carry her, and the maid follow'd in the other with the luggage.

Aristus was all this time abroad, — he went out with the gentleman who had call'd on him, and his absence very much facilitated the execution of his wife's design; for had he been at home 'tis certain that either his love or anger, or perhaps a mixture of both, would have attempted to detain her; but what effects the steps she had taken produced, both on the one and the other, must be left to the succeeding chapter.



C H A P. V.

In which the consequences of Cleora's elopement, in relation both to herself and husband, are fully shewn, and an end put to that suspense which it is highly probable the former pages may have excited in the mind of every interested and curious reader.

I staid some hours at the house of Aristus, expecting to be witness of something extraordinary in his behaviour, when he should be told of the departure of his wife; but he returning not in all that time, I grew weary of the tedious attendance and quitted my post in order to go home; for as to Cleora, I had no thoughts of visiting her in her new apartment 'till next morning.

It not being late, however, I took it into my head to call in at a great coffee-house in my way, and lucky was it for the gratification of my curiosity that I did so;—I found Aristus there,—he was sitting at a table in one corner of the room, some distance from the other com-

company, with paper and a standish before him; — I advanced with all the speed I could towards him, and saw him write the following billet:

TO LEANDER.

“SIR,

“**Y**OU are a villain, and have endeavoured to wrong me in a point too tender to be forgiven: — I need only tell you, that I am the husband of Cleora, to inform you both of what I mean, and what sort of satisfaction my honour demands from you, which I expect you will give me to-morrow morning at seven, in the Artillery-ground, Tothill-fields: — the bearer has orders to wait your answer to

“ARISTUS.

This he sent by a porter to the Braund's head in Bond-street, at which house, as I afterwards discover'd, he had with a good deal of pains got intelligence that Leander constantly supped every night.

I waited behind Aristus with an impatience, perhaps, not inferior to his own, to see what reply Leander would make to the above, till the porter return'd from him with these lines:

TO

TO ARISTUS.

“SIR,

“**T**H O’ your telling me that you are
“the husband of Cleora cannot
“make me in the least sensible how I
“deserve the name of villain, yet I can
“easily guess at the satisfaction you re-
“quire, and shall not fail to meet you at
“the hour and place appointed, in hopes
“of being better inform’d for what ima-
“ginary cause you treat in this manner
“a person who neither knows or ever
“had any design to injure you.

“LEANDER.”

Aristus, after having read this, staid no longer than to drink one dish of coffee; as I perceived he turn’d that way which led to his own house, I could not forbear accompanying him thither; and I believe, by what I have to relate, the reader will think I had no reason to repent the pains I took.

He was no sooner enter’d than he ask’d hastily for his wife, doubtless with an intention to renew his reproaches, and give a vent to some part of the fury he was possess’d of; but never certainly did astonishment work a more strange effect,—on
being

being told by the footman who open'd the door, that she was gone, and the manner in which she went, the sudden shock at once deprived him both of speech and motion,—his face grew pale as ashes,—his eyes were fix'd in a stupid stare, and had he been buried for three days, scarce could he have appeared more the ghost of what he was the moment before.

His deaden'd faculties by degrees reviving, the first use he made of them was to call up all the servants, asking first one, and then another, — why she was suffer'd to depart, — why they did not stop her! — to which they answer'd, that having no order from him they durst not presume so far;—and besides, they knew nothing of her going till they saw the coaches at the door and the portmanteaus carry'd out.

He next demanded to what place she had directed herself to be carried; but both Cleora and her maid having taken the precaution to give no order to the coachmen till they were got some distance from the house, no one of them was able to give him any information, on which he sent them out of the room, not without some curses on their indolence in not following the coaches; — then, thinking him-

himself alone, began to give a loose to the dictates of his despair and rage in these expressions:

Aristus. ‘ Then she is lost! — for ever
‘ lost to me! for if she should return,
‘ my honour, after this, would not permit me to receive her.—Why did I ever
‘ marry! — What demon tempted me to
‘ become the husband of a woman, whom
‘ I knew all mankind who saw must love
‘ as well as I! — Yet how secure, how
‘ happy did I once think myself in her
‘ embraces! — Too blest’d, indeed, had
‘ she never given me reason to believe her
‘ false! —Heavens! that so fair an outside,
‘ such seeming innocence, should be the
‘ varnish of a foul polluted mind! —Curse
‘ on my fond passion! —curse on her fatal
‘ charms! — Oh the deceiver! — the
‘ vile hypocrite, while in my arms she
‘ languish’d for another! — There is no
‘ longer any room for doubt, her flight
‘ has proved her guilt.—Revenge is now
‘ my sole relief; — she for the present
‘ has escap’d my reach; but I will stab
‘ her image in Leander’s heart.—Oh that
‘ it were morning, that I might put a
‘ husband’s mark upon the lewd adul-
‘ terer!’

While

While uttering the latter part of this exclamation he flew about the room as if totally bereft of reason; till his spirits, at length exhausted by the violence of his rage, sunk into the contrary extreme, — that of dejection; — he folded his arms, sigh'd, and with tears bursting from his eyes, cry'd out :

Aristus. ‘ Oh Cleora ! — Cleora ! —
‘ lovely perfidious wanton, to what hast
‘ thou reduced me !’

He then threw himself down on a settee, with groans like those which issue from the breasts of men dying in their full vigour; whence, after having lain some time, he started up saying :

Aristus. ‘ I will think no more ; — to
‘ hear of my distractions would but sooth
‘ her pride.’

He now seem'd a little more composed, and call'd for something to eat; but on its being brought could only mangle a cold chicken, without being able to put one morsel into his mouth, so rose from table and went up to his own chamber, where I did not think fit to pursue him, as having already seen enough to make
me

me know the present disposition of his mind.

It was my full intention, however, to go in the morning to the Artillery-ground, to be spectator of the combat between him and Leander ; but was disappointed by sleeping beyond the time they were to meet ; — this a little vex'd me, but I consoled myself with the thoughts of being able to hear the event, by calling some part of the day at the house of of Aristus, for I knew not where Leander lived ; but my concern for Cleora carrying me first to her lodgings, I there got all the intelligence I wanted.

I found that lady, as I believe, just risen from her bed, for she was in a loose entire deshabille :— she seem'd very pensive, and had the marks of her jealous husband's resentment still flagrant on her lovely face ; — Betty was not with her when I came in, but enter'd immediately after, and surpris'd her with these words :

Betty. ‘ Oh ! madam, — I have the
‘ strangest thing to tell you !’

Cleora. ‘ What is it ?’

Betty.

Betty. ‘ Who does your ladyship
‘ think I have seen ?’

Cleora. ‘ Nay I know not. — Who,
‘ prithee ?’

Betty. ‘ The very footman that brought
‘ your ladyship the letter yesterday, and
‘ put my master into such a rage ; — I
‘ was never so confounded in my whole
‘ life.’

Cleora. ‘ Confounded, for what ? —
‘ Where did you see him ?’

Betty. ‘ In the kitchen, madam : —
‘ when I went down, just now, to put
‘ on the tea-kettle for breakfast, who
‘ should I see there but him talking to
‘ mrs. Clip : — his master lodges here in
‘ the apartment above.’

Cleora. ‘ Good Heaven ! — was there
‘ ever so unfortunate an accident ! — to
‘ come to lodge in the same house with the
‘ man whom at present it most behoves
‘ me to avoid ! — Do you think he knows
‘ you ?’

Betty. ‘ O yes, madam ; — your lady-
‘ ship may remember it was I that took
‘ the

the letter from him and carry'd down
‘ your answer :— I warrant he knows me
‘ again ; but if he did not, I find mrs.
‘ Clip has been babling to him about
‘ your ladyship, for I heard her mention
‘ your name as I was upon the stairs.’

Cleora. ‘ Sure I was infatuated not to
‘ forbid that woman telling any body I
‘ was here ; — but I must remove imme-
‘ diately ; — it would be my utter ruin if
‘ my husband, or any of his friends,
‘ should hear I had lain in this house but
‘ one night.’

Betty. ‘ Very true, indeed, madam,
‘ — and as soon as your ladyship has
‘ had your breakfast, I will go out and
‘ get another lodging.’

Cleora. ‘ Don’t talk of breakfasting,
‘ — I will have you go this instant, — I
‘ am distracted to think where I am.’

Betty. ‘ Dear madam, I beg you will
‘ not put yourself into such a hurry of
‘ spirits, it seems Leander is gone abroad,
‘ and these gay gentlemen, when once
‘ they go out, seldom return all day : —
‘ I will engage your ladyship shall be re-
‘ moved before he knows any thing of
‘ your being here.’

Cleora.

Cleora. ' You talk like a fool ;—as he
' went out so early, he is the more like-
' ly to come home to dress, — therefore
' prithee get away, — I would not have
' him see me here for the world.'

Betty, finding her lady so resolute, made no farther delays, but went into the next room and huddled on her capuchin and gloves, which done, she return'd and ask'd what part of the town would be most agreeable to her ; — to which Cleora reply'd, — that all situations were alike indifferent to her ; but should chuse some one or other of the streets that turn'd out of the Strand, as she must be private for a while, and had fewest acquaintance that way, — and then bid her send mrs. Clip to her.

The maid went out, and mrs. Clip enter'd the room presently after ; — Cleora told her the circumstances of her affairs laid her under a necessity of removing from her house, and intreated she would not make mention of her having been there to any one who might enquire for her ; — the other express'd a good deal of concern for losing so good a lodger, and assured her of observing secrecy in the point she desir'd.

While

While they were talking, a loud knocking at the door made Mrs. Clip run to the parlour window, and seeing who it was cry'd out,

Mrs. Clip. ' Bless me ! 'tis Leander,—
' his cloaths are all bloody, and his arm
' in a scarf !—he has been fighting, that's
' certain ! I thought there were some
' such thing in hand, by his going out so
' early this morning ; — I beg your lady-
' ship's pardon, I must run and see if he
' wants any thing I can do for him.'

Cleora was too much confounded at the name of Leander, and the condition she heard he was in, to offer to detain her, and after she was gone fell into a profound resvery, which held her for, I believe, not less than half an hour ; and perhaps might have done so much longer, if she had not been roused from it by a gentle knocking at the parlour door ;—but how greatly was she surpris'd, when on her calling to the person to come in she saw Leander enter ; — she started, — trembled, and with a faltering voice spoke thus to him :

Cleora. ' Oh, sir, a visit from you is
' wholly improper at this time !'

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F

Leander.

Leander. ‘ I hope not so, madam ;
‘ since I would not have so far intruded,
‘ but to acquaint you with something
‘ which it may be convenient for you to
‘ know ; — I have seen your husband this
‘ morning.’

Cleora. ‘ Oh my foreboding heart ! —
‘ I dread to ask the consequence of such a
‘ meeting !’

Leander, ‘ You need not, madam, —
‘ Aristus is unhurt, and I bear only one
‘ slight token of his intent to take my
‘ life.’

Cleora. ‘ Then you have fought !’

Leander. ‘ It was with the utmost re-
‘ gret I drew my sword against the hus-
‘ band of Cleora ; — but be pleased,
‘ madam, to peruse this billet, and you
‘ will see the necessity that compell’d me
‘ to it.’

With these words he presented to her
the challenge he had received the night
before from Aristus ; which, as soon as
she had look’d over, she return’d to him
again, — saying,

Cleora.

Cleora. Unjust Aristus ;—but I thank
‘ Heaven that nothing worse has ensued !’

Leander. ‘ Heaven, madam, has indeed alone the praise ; since it was not
‘ to any superior skill of mine, or to any
‘ generosity in my antagonist, that I am
‘ indebted for my preservation, but to a
‘ kind of miracle.’

Cleora. ‘ As how ;—pray, sir, inform me !’

Leander. ‘ I know not, madam, whether I can make you sensible how the
‘ thing happened, as your sex are ignorant of the terms made use of in the
‘ description of such rencounters ;—but I
‘ will do my best :—When first we met, I
‘ would have endeavour’d to reason him
‘ out of a mistake so injurious to you and
‘ his own peace of mind, as well as to
‘ myself ; but he refused to listen to any
‘ arguments I had prepar’d, and flew upon
‘ me with the rage of an incensed lion :—
‘ by the manner of his fighting, I easily
‘ perceived he came with a resolution
‘ either to kill or be kill’d ; — so as I was
‘ desirous of avoiding both the one and
‘ the other, I only stood upon my defence
‘ and parry’d the pushes he made, tho’

F 2

‘ in

‘ however, that the remembrance of our
‘ former tendernefs is not fo totally obli-
‘ terated, but that friendship may fub-
‘ fift between us; — you may, at leaft,
‘ permit me to write to you fometimes.’

Cleora. ‘ I know not whether even
‘ that would not be too much.’

Leander. ‘ Neither virtue, nor duty
‘ to the beft of husbands, could fet down
‘ as a fault the favour I request; and to
‘ prevent all mifinterpretations of our in-
‘ nocent correſpondence, I ſhall take ſuch
‘ precautions as will keep it a ſecret from
‘ all the world.’

Cleora. ‘ Well, fir, I cannot refuſe
‘ this proof of your compaſſion for me,
‘ and think I ought not to deprive my-
‘ ſelf of any innocent conſolation under
‘ my preſent affliction; — you may there-
‘ fore be aſſured that I ſhall receive, and
‘ answer your letters, with all the ſatisfac-
‘ tion a woman in my circumſtances either
‘ can or ought to feel.’

He was going to make ſome reply
when Betty return’d from her errand; —
ſhe was a little ſurprized at ſeeing him
there, and ſaid nothing till her lady, im-
patient

patient to know the success of what she had been about, spoke thus to her :

Cleora. ‘ Well, Betty, have you done the business I sent you on ?’

Betty. Yes, madam, — please to step into the next room and I will give you an account.’

Cleora. ‘ No, you may tell me here, — I dare trust this gentleman’s discretion.’

The maid then inform’d her that she had agreed for lodgings at the house of a great taylor, whom she nam’d, in Norfolk-street ;—on this Cleora desired Leander to retire, saying she must get herself ready, for she was determin’d to depart immediately ; — he offer’d not to oppose her design ; but tho’ the leave they took of each other now was accompany’d with the greatest respect on his side, and reserve on her’s, I could easily perceive that this interview had rekindled in both their hearts those flames of affection they before had felt.

After he had left the room, Cleora’s things not having been unpack’d, there needed little preparation for her going ;

—she sent for mrs. Clip, and made her a handsome present for the trouble she had given her house; but finding her a tatling woman, acquainted her not with that to which she was removing; — I saw both the mistress and the maid, with all their luggage, depart in the same manner they had come; but did not accompany them to their new habitation, as I could not promise myself with finding any thing there as yet worthy of my enquiry.

The discourse of the town afterwards informed me, that Cleora had employ'd a lawyer, and was sulliciting either to have her whole fortune return'd, or an annual allowance to the amount of the interest of it: — Aristus was at first refractory to all proposals of this nature; but all his friends, and his mother in particular, joining their persuasions, he at last was prevail'd on to sign articles of a final separation; by which it was agreed that she should have a pension of three hunderd pounds a year during his life, and in case he died before her, her whole fortune restored.

I frequently call'd upon Cleora, and found that during this negotiation with her husband she kept her resolution of not seeing Leander; but that affair was no sooner

sooner over than he visited her every day, — the consequence of which may easily be guess'd at, and was in a short time proved; for they went to Paris together; and still continue to reside there.

This last action of Cleora's has doubtless given the world room to believe she had not been wrong'd by the suspicions of Aristus; but whoever is of this opinion does her a great deal of injustice, — the Invisible Spy is a witness for her, that her inclinations were virtuous, — her disposition grateful and sincere, and had she been treated with that confidence a good wife ought to have been, no temptations would have had the power to have made her otherwise: — let all husbands therefore beware how they provoke, by ill usage and distrust, the fate they would avoid; — and observe this maxim of the poets:

- He that would keep the fair one
 ' true and kind,
- By love must clap a padlock on her
 ' mind.'





C H A P. VI.

Treats of divers and sundry matters, some of which the Invisible author flatters himself will be very agreeable to the greatest part of the readers, but if, contrary to his expectations, they should happen to be found otherwise, he hopes at least they will be excused on account of others, both past and to come, more entertaining and suitable to his taste.

WHEN my curiosity was not attach'd to the pursuit of any particular adventure, I frequently stepp'd, for the sake of amusement, into one or other of our great coffee-houses; and, indeed, seldom return'd from any of them without bringing home something worthy of my very serious reflections afterwards.

These places, I think, may with propriety enough to be call'd the world in miniature, as they present you with some part of almost every thing that is in it;—the variety of company and of humours one meets there, fill the mind with an agree-

agreeable medley, which, when separated and digested by meditation, enlarges the understanding, and gives us ideas which otherwise might perhaps be for ever strangers to us.

The affairs of the army, the navy, the senate-house, the council-board, are here freely discuss'd, and censur'd or approv'd according to the different interests or inclination of the speakers; — our stock at home, our colonies abroad, our commerce with our neighbours, our trade among ourselves, with deaths, births, marriages, and intrigues, are promiscuously treated on; — the courtier, the patriot, the man of business, and the man of pleasure, talk every one on matters relating to his own sphere, and leave you uninformed of nothing.

But it affords a good deal of diversion to a curious observer, when there happens to be in company some country squire, who perhaps sees the town but once in half seven years, and knows nothing of what is done in it but what he reads in those few news papers which are permitted to be sent down to the village where he lives; — how he stares, and gapes with his mouth wide open as if he would swallow all he hears, and every

now and then asks, — How can this be? — and — How can that be? — and expresses his honest wonder on being told things which, indeed, without knowing, would scarcely be believed by persons brought up in less simplicity.

But, as much as we town-bred people may laugh at such a one, there is, in my opinion, another species of mortals yet more deserving ridicule: — How often have I seen a fellow almost as ignorant as the seat he sits upon, in every thing but the common occurrences of life, listen with a shew of the greatest attention to an abstruse argument? — give a significant nod at some parts of it, — shrug up his shoulders at another, — sometimes shake his head, — wink with one eye, — seem to debate within himself to which of the orators he should give the preference, and if ask'd any question by a by-stander on the occasion, reply with all the gravity of a philosopher, — ‘ Sir, I never give
‘ my sentiments in these matters.’

Whenever I chance to meet with such a one, I cannot help remembering what the witty Earl of Rochester said in one of his poems:

When

- When a fool among wise men does
“silently sit,
- A fool that says nothing may pass
“for a wit.

Impossible is it to describe folly in all its various shapes ; but there is none more preposterous than when it puts on the garb of wisdom, affects to be sententious and austere, and endeavours to hide its ass's ears beneath the veil of deep profundity ; — yet nothing is more common than this, as may every day be seen on benches more respectable than those in the places I am speaking of.

But it is very likely that the impatient reader will cry out, — What is all this to the purpose ?—and begin to think it high time I should relate something for his entertainment, if not for his improvement ; — indeed I cannot positively promise that I shall be able to do either the one or the other, but I will endeavour the best I can ; and a candid mind will always allow that there is some merit in a good intention.

Well then, — on the evening of that memorable day in which Dr. Cameron was executed, and the bills for naturalising

sing the Jews and for preventing clandestine Marriages had pass'd the royal assent, I went to a certain celebrated coffee-house at the court end of the town, neither White's nor St. James's, yet I found it as full of company as ever I saw either of them.

The moment I enter'd the room I perceived the important transactions of the day engross'd the discourse of the whole assembly, except among some few striplings, such as the French distinguish by the name of Petit Maitres, but by their dress appear'd belonging to the army;—these I left to adjust their sword-knots and toupees, and advanced where a set of more serious gentlemen attracted my attention.

I found they had been talking of the Marriage-Bill; but whatever arguments had been urged among them, pro and con; either in vindication or disapprobation of it, were all over before I came; and the first thing I heard, and which made me know what had been the subject of their conversation was this:

First Gentleman. ' I am very sensible,
' gentlemen, that it does not become us
' to make objections to any bill in parlia-
' ment.

The Invisible SPY. I T I

‘ment, after it is once enacted into a law : — but I heard of an odd accident happening yesterday, which may serve to shew the consequences that are likely to attend laying such a restriction on the hearts of young people ; — if you please I will relate it to you.’

Second Gentleman. ‘ Pray do, sir.’

Third Gentleman. ‘ I dare answer it will be a favour to us all.’

First Gentleman. ‘ You must know, gentlemen, that I am acquainted with an eminent citizen, who has under his guardianship a young lady call’d miss Hasty, a fortune of twenty thousand pounds ; — I take him to be a worthy honest man, and one who would faithfully discharge the trust reposed in him ; — some business obliging me to call on him this morning, I found him with a countenance full of trouble and confusion ; — on my asking him if any misfortune had happen’d in his family, he reply’d, — “ There are few things could give me more concern, — miss Hasty is married, and has thrown herself away in a most strange and unaccountable manner.”’

On

On my expressing some surprise, he related the whole story to me, which I will give you the particulars of, as near as I can remember, in the same manner he told them :

‘ The Marriage-Bill, it seems, had been
 ‘ a great bugbear to this young lady all
 ‘ the time it was depending in parliament,
 ‘ and when she heard it had pass’d both
 ‘ houses, and waited only the royal as-
 ‘ sent, she took a resolution not to leave
 ‘ it in the power of her guardian to put
 ‘ any constraint upon her inclination ; —
 ‘ she had no lover, nor was there any
 ‘ particular person to whom she wish’d to
 ‘ be united for life, yet was determined
 ‘ to be so to somebody or other ; — ac-
 ‘ cordingly she went yesterday morning
 ‘ into the counting-house, where my
 ‘ friend’s clerk, a spruce young man, sat
 ‘ writing at his desk, — “ Goodmorrow,
 “ mr. Cypher, said she, do you not
 “ wonder what brings me here so early ?”
 “ — “ I have not yet had time for won-
 “ der, miss, answer’d he, you are but
 “ just come in.—But pray what are your
 “ commands ?” — “ I have a mind to be
 “ married, resumed she, will you have
 “ me ?” — “ Certainly, miss, said he, if
 “ I were worthy of that honour.” —
 “ That

“ That is none of your affair, return’d
“ she, if you agree to my proposal throw
“ away your pen and go with me this
“ moment to May-Fair Chapel.” — The
“ young fellow, who imagin’d not she
“ meant any thing more than to rally
“ him, reply’d laughing, — “ With all
“ my heart, miss ; but shall we not make
“ my master of our party ?” — “ Pish,
“ cry’d she scornfully, I did not think
“ you were such a fool ; but remember
“ what I say, you will hereafter repent
“ your not taking me at my word.”

“ This refusal did not baulk her intention, — she took a hackney-coach directly, made herself be drove very slowly up one street and down another, looking in at every shop she pass’d, till she saw a neat young fellow behind a haberdasher’s counter ; — here she stopp’d, and beckon’d him to come to her, — which he did, bowing very humbly ; but she made him come into the coach, and ask’d him if he were married ; — to which question he answering in the negative, she made him the same offer she had the clerk ; — the young fellow, who was only a journeyman, having no friends nor fortune to set him up in his business, thought his condition could not be made worse by
“ the

‘ the venture, and after a short pause
‘ consented ;—he would have gone back
‘ for his hat and gloves but she would
‘ not permit him, and away they drove
‘ to May-Fair, where they were im-
‘ mediately married by one of those parsons
‘ who officiate there.

‘ When the ceremony was over she
‘ sent him home in another coach, tel-
‘ ling him she would come in about two
‘ hours and claim him for a husband,
‘ which she did after having hired hand-
‘ some lodgings for the consummation
‘ of their nuptials.

‘ My friend was surprised when dinner
‘ was served up and miss Hasty not at
‘ table, and much more so on being
‘ told she went out in the morning in a
‘ hackney-coach, without either her maid
‘ or footman to attend her ;—night com-
‘ ing on, and she not return’d, he grew
‘ very uneasy, — sent to all her acquaint-
‘ tance in search of her, but in vain, no-
‘ body had seen her the whole day :—the
‘ clerk, on this, beginning to think the
‘ offer she had made him was more in-
‘ earnest than he had believed it, related
‘ to his master all the conference that had
‘ pass’d between them in the counting-
‘ house, on which the honest gentleman
‘ was

‘ was almost out of his wits, — he apprehended the truth of what had happen’d, and that all the measures he could now take would be too late to prevent her ruin.

‘ He told me that no man had ever pass’d a night in greater disquiets than he had the last ; — the morning, however, put an end to the suspense he had been in, — she came and brought her bridegroom with her, — told him the motives that had induced her to take the step she had done, and the manner in which she had executed so odd an enterprize ;—adding, that it was her glory to have disappointed the legislature, and not left it in the power of any guardian either to dispose of her hand, or restrain her for giving it wherever she had an inclination.

‘ The mischief was now irremediable, advice and reproof were equally in vain, so he answer’d little to the recital she had made him ; and she departed with her spouse, taking with her her two servants and all her baggage.’

Here the gentleman ended his little narrative, and received the thanks of the company for the trouble he had given himself ;

himself; — after which one of them said :

Second Gentleman. ‘ I do not doubt, indeed, but that the passing this Bill will bring about many such marriages ; — I have it confidently affirm’d, that since the bringing it into the house, which I think is not above three months, there have been more couples noos’d in the Fleet, May-Fair, and other private Chapels, than in all the Churches throughout London in a whole Year.’

Third Gentleman. ‘ That may be ; but however unlucky it may prove to some private families, I cannot think it concerns the public in any measure equal to the Naturalization of the Jews ; — though, for my part, I am determin’d never to give my vote for any member who supported either.’

Here several started up, and cry’d with one voice, — ‘ Nor I, — Nor I, by Heaven !’ — on which another, who I had not heard speak before, reprov’d the warmth they express’d in these terms :

Fourth Gentleman. ‘ Hold, gentlemen, — whatever your thoughts are, it seems to me highly impolitic in you to declare

‘ declare them in this public manner ; —
‘ consider, I beseech you, that if what
‘ you say should reach the ears of the ho-
‘ nourable house, they might, perhaps,
‘ rather than run the hazard of not being
‘ rechosen, establish themselves in their
‘ seats for seven, fourteen, or one and
‘ twenty years, and so on *ad infinitum*.’

First Gentleman. ‘ What, a perpetual
‘ dictatorship !—Tush, —tush, the people
‘ would not bear it.’

Second Gentleman. ‘ No, no, they would
‘ not bear it.’

Fourth Gentleman. ‘ Indeed they would
‘ bear that and every thing else ; — you
‘ are quite mistaken in your fellow-sub-
‘ jects, — they are not what they were in
‘ former days ; — some few of them, its
‘ true, might bounce and bluster a little
‘ at first, especially over their cups, but
‘ when once the fire of the liquor was
‘ evaporated they would cool like a dish
‘ of tea, and become as gentle and tract-
‘ able as lambs.’

Third Gentleman. ‘ Sir, I have the
‘ honour to be entirely of your way of
‘ thinking ; — the ancient stubbornness
‘ of the people of England has been
‘ worn

‘worn off for a long time, — they now
 ‘know better than to be too strictly tena-
 ‘cious, like their less wife forefathers, or
 ‘what they call their rights and privi-
 ‘leges; — the luxuries of life have taken
 ‘off all their fierceness, and while they
 ‘are indulged so far as to be left to play
 ‘at — *Laugh and lie down*, — will never
 ‘go to *hard-heads* with any body.’

First Gentleman. ‘That is very true in
 ‘most cases; — but an Election is a thing
 ‘of a different nature from others; —
 ‘you do not consider that an Election is
 ‘a kind of harvest, both in town and
 ‘country, and a man sometimes gets as
 ‘much for his vote as enables him to pay
 ‘his taxes for a twelvemonth.’

Second Gentlemen. ‘Ay, ay, we shall
 ‘find no cities, towns, or corporations
 ‘that will do like the Westminster elec-
 ‘tors, — set up a candidate, and raise
 ‘a contribution to bear the expences of his
 ‘standing.’

Third Gentleman. ‘No, — if they do
 ‘might like them too be left in the lurch
 ‘and laughed at for their pains.’

There is no pretending to say how
 this dispute would have lasted, or in
 may

manner it would have ended ; — the sudden appearance of an uncouth man at the farther end of the room, put a stop to all the conversation, and drew the eyes of the whole company upon him ; — he looked wildly about him for some moments, 'till the waiter asking him what he wanted, he answered in accents which shewed him to be Irish.

Irishman. ‘ Arra, joy, — I would know of you where I can get to the speech of my cousin Mac Dunder ?

Waiter. ‘ You have no coffin here, go about your business.

Irishman. ‘ Arra, honey, you might give a shivil answer to a poor stranger ; — it is not so you would be served if you came to Eireland.

Waiter. ‘ I shan’t make the trial. — Go, I say, — this is no place for such as you.

Irishman. ‘ By my shoul, joy, an honest Eirishman that carries a chair above here did sent me to you, and said you did know my cousin Mac Dunder very well, and could tell me news of him.’

Or

On this the pert ill-natured waiter was going to push him out of the house, but a gentleman, either through pity, or for the sake of having some sport with him, called him back with these words :

Gentleman. ‘ Come hither, friend, —
‘ Who is it you enquire for?’

Irishman. ‘ For my coushin Mac Dunder ; — myself is come all the way from
‘ Bullruddre on purpose to see him ; —
‘ I hear he has got brave trade, and lives
‘ as great as the Lord Lieutenant, and it
‘ may be he will do something for his
‘ poor relashion.’

Gentleman. ‘ Is mr. Mac Dunder your
‘ cousin ?’

Irishman, ‘ Aye, by Crift and St.
‘ Patrick, is he, my own ful coushin.’

Gentleman. ‘ Well then, I’ll tell you
‘ where you may find him.’

Irishman. ‘ Bless your sweet face’

Gentleman. ‘ At Paris.’

Irishman. ‘ And where is that place,
‘ joy.’

Gentleman.

Gentleman. ‘ Not above a thousand miles hence.’

Irishman. ‘ Hubbubboo ; — and how shall myself get there? — I have but one thirteen-pence piece and two rap-paree halfpence in my purse.’

Gentleman. ‘ You had better not attempt it ; for to tell you the truth, I believe he is gone by this time, though much against his will, somewhat farther.’

Irishman. ‘ If I could have seen him he might have taught me the same trade of gaming that he has got so much by.’

Gentleman. ‘ What he has got you had better be without ; — so, friend, I would advise you to go back to Bullrud-dre, — and here is something to help bear your charges.’

The gentleman then threw him half a crown and turned away, and the poor fellow went out of the house, shaking his head and looking extremely piteous.

The name of Mac Dunder and his late transactions were well known to most of the company, and some discourse concern-
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ing him ensued among them, which, in respect to some who have been his associates, I shall forbear to repeat.

I was just thinking to quit this place, and was already at the door, when a hackney-coach stopp'd, and the driver of it alighted from his box, and asked if one mr. Youngly was in the coffee-room ; on which the gentleman who owned that name came out and stepp'd to the coach side, where a lady putting out her head saluted him with this reproach ;

Lady. ' How cruel are you to oblige me to this method of seeing you ? — I can scarce live a day without you, yet you have suffered me to languish for almost a whole week.'

Youngly. ' I have had business, and could not think a lady, who besides her husband has a plurality of lovers, could want consolation for the absence of one ; — mr. Miramour was doubtless in the way to supply my place.'

Lady. ' Ungrateful creature, do you not know that all the love I ever had for him vanished at the sight of you, and that I have never since granted him the least favour ? — But come in, — my fool

‘ fool of a husband is secure, and we may
‘ pass an hour or two at least together.’

Youngly. ‘ Impossible at this time, —
‘ I have an engagement that I cannot dis-
‘ pense with.’

Lady. ‘ Well then, shall we meet to-
‘ morrow ?’

Youngly. ‘ To-morrow I will ; — at
‘ the old place, I suppose ; — What
‘ hour ?’

Lady. ‘ About eight : — But may I
‘ depend upon you ?’

Youngly. ‘ You may, I will not fail.’

The coach then drove away, and Young-
ly returned to his company ; — but who
this lady was, and the effects of her un-
happy conduct, must be referred to ano-
ther chapter.



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C H A P. VII.

Presents the reader with a full view of the beautiful and much celebrated Sabina, in an impartial description of her person and character, with some particulars in relation to her two amours, and the consequences which attended this last assignation made with her favourite Youngly.

THAT children do not always behave in the same manner with their parents, is not so much owing to their being born with different propensities, as to their education and the company they may happen to fall into, at an age when nature is most liable to be sway'd by example.

We often see the most virtuous couples unhappy in a degenerate offspring; but we rarely see good branches sprout from a vicious stock: — an evil disposition may be corrected by advice, by persuasion and example, and a good one perverted by the same means; but when a person is so unfortunate as to be descended from base and wicked

wicked parents, is brought up under them, is witness of all their actions, and have companions of the same cast, it is scarce possible that such a one can have a mind enriched with any noble, or moral principles.

What other could the once doating deceived Germanicus expect in his marriage with Sabina, than the vexations he has fatally experienced? — Can all the beauties of her person now make attonement for the blemishes of her mind? — No, — he rather curses than admires those charms that drew him in, and wishes himself any thing so he were not a husband.

Yet ask him why he married, he will tell you he married a woman of fortune, quality, and an uncommon share of beauty; — all this is very true; but a man not blinded by his passion would have examined by what means the two former were obtained; and, above all, what sort of disposition was hid beneath the varnish of an outside loveliness.

Was not her Family among the lowest rank, till one of them raised himself to opulence by actions which ought to have brought him to a Gibbet, and instead of

G 3.

ennobling

ennobling his posterity, entailed on them perpetual infamy? — Was she not trained up under a mother whose bad conduct has been equally notorious? — Was she not from her most early years soothed in every vanity, pampered in every luxury, and taught to think that appetites and passions were never given but to be indulged?

Could Germanicus be ignorant of these glaring truths? — if he were not, yet rashly ventured on so unpromising a union, who can pity the misfortunes, the disquiets, the disgrace, it has involved him in?

The many proofs she gave of too warm an inclination before marriage, as also many of the several amours she had after she became a wife, I shall pass over; the first that made any great noise in the world was that with Miramour, which perhaps was chiefly owing to the manner of its commencement, which he thinking himself under no obligation to conceal, has since made no secret of in all companies, whenever her name happens to come upon the carpet.

This gentleman had a mistress, who, on account of a certain haughtiness in her temper,

temper and behaviour, he call'd Roxana ; — he supported her in so genteel a manner, that had her reputation been equal to her appearance, she might have been entitled to the best company. — Character, however, was the least thing consider'd by Sabina in the choice of her acquaintance ; — she accidentally met with this lady at a milliner's, fell into discourse with her, liked her, invited her to her house, and there soon grew a great intimacy between them.

That Roxana was kept by Miramour was no secret to the town, nor did she attempt to make any of it to Sabina ; — on the contrary, she talk'd freely to her of many passages in their amorous conversation ; but how dangerous is it for one woman to boast too much of the perfections of her lover, to another no less sanguine in her constitution ? — Sabina, who had often seen Miramour without taking any notice of him, now became so fired with the rapturous description given of him by his mistress, that she instantly became her rival, and languished to experience in reality that happiness which the other had given her so high an idea of.

As she never took any thing of this nature into her head without attempting to accomplish it, and had no regard to decorum in the manner of her doing so, she sent a billet to him by a porter containing these lines :

TO MIRAMOUR.

“ S I R,

“ **I**F your attachment to the charms of
 “ your kept mistress makes you not
 “ look on all the rest of womankind as
 “ insipid tasteless creatures, the invitation
 “ this brings you will not be unwelcome ;
 “ — a woman of quality, young, and
 “ in most men’s eyes handsome, has
 “ found something in you that excites in
 “ her the desire of a private interview,
 “ and to that end will call on you this
 “ evening about seven at White’s ; — till
 “ when must remain,

“ With a great deal of impatience,

“ Your INCOGNITA.”

The Messenger who carry’d this had strict orders not to tell from whom it came ; — curiosity, however, for it could be call’d no other passion as yet, made Miramour punctual to the time, nor was Sabina less so ; — he had not waited many minutes.

minutes before she came; — on his coming into the coach he found her face entirely hid under her hood, which she told him laughing, he must not expect to see till they were in a place more proper for him to give her proof how agreeable it was to him; on this he ordered the coachman to drive to an adjacent tavern, where being shewed into a private room the lady soon threw off her disguise.

He had not enough depended on the character she had given of herself, not to be surpris'd and transported on finding Sabina in the person of his Incognita; and express'd the sense he had of the honour she did, and the happiness he hop'd their meeting would bestow on him, in terms so warm, and so passionate, as infinitely charmed her.

They pass'd some hours together to their mutual satisfaction, nor parted without an appointment to see each other the next day; but Sabina, not thinking it safe to come often to so public a place as a tavern, undertook to provide a more proper scene for the continuance of their intrigue.

As indolent as this lady is in most other affairs, it must be confess'd that no wo-

man was ever more punctual, or more indefatigable in every thing relating to the business of her love ; — on consulting with a female acquaintance, who had been often necessary to her on such occasions, she was advised by her to hire a private lodging, by the quarter, in some obscure nook of the town, to which she might retire whenever she had a mind, as it would be always ready, and neither herself nor the friends she should bring with her be taken any notice of.

Sabina highly approving of what she said, the project was put in immediate execution ; — the woman took upon herself the accomplishment of what she had proposed, and easily found a place every way suitable for the business it was designed ; — the chamber was neat, spacious, and well furnished ; — there was a back door to the house, through which any one might slip out in case of any danger of discovery ; and the landlady knew perfectly well the decorum that she ought to observe in regard to her guests : — the heroine of this adventure was very much pleased with the accommodation procured for her ; and having got this recess, which, according to the French, she used to call her *Petit Maison*, henceforward

ward never met Miramour at any other place.

But there was one thing I forgot to mention in giving the character of this lady, which is, — the uncertainty of her temper; — she is no less inconstant than she is amorous, and changes her lovers almost as often as she does her garments, and never keeps either till they are worn out; a new friend, like a new fashion, is always charming to her, but a very little time serves to make her equally grow weary of both.

She loved Miramour till she saw Youngly; but there was something in the person and conversation of this last gentleman, that making reason coincide with passion, it is not to be wondered at that she gave him the preference; and a woman of a less mutable disposition might have been easily absolved for transferring her affections to an object so much more worthy than the late engrosser of her heart.

On her first acquaintance with him, she made advances to him which he is too much a man of pleasure to resist from any fine woman; — he returned those of Sabina in a manner which made her think

him as much devoted to her as she could wish; and it was not long before she gave him an invitation to drink tea with her at her private apartment, where she told him they might laugh away an hour without interruption.

He took the hint, and flew to the place of rendezvous, where it is not to be doubted but he found all the welcome he could wish or expect from the obliging fair.

They had many interviews; but Youngly having by some accident heard of her intrigue with Miramour, he not only frequently reproached her with it, but also was far from feeling for her that affection in his heart, which otherwise her beauty might have inspired him with, as the reader will easily believe, by the recital I gave in the last chapter of the conversation he had with her when she called upon him at the coffee-house.

In the mean time, Roxana, who, from the commencement of Miramour's acquaintance with Sabina, had seen him less often than she had been accustomed, and had also some other reasons to suspect a decrease in affection, began presently to imagine that some new face had supplanted.

planted her ; — she complained to him of his unkindness, but he absolutely denied having given her any cause, and made a thousand excuses for his late behaviour ; — but this did not satisfy her, — she was not to be deceived in matters of which she was so good a judge ; and convinced that she had a rival, bent her whole thoughts on discovering the person.

By an emissary whom she employ'd to watch Miramour wherever he went, she soon found out the place where he met the object of his new attachment ; but as that lady was carry'd into the house in a chair, with the curtains close drawn, was still as far as ever from knowing the face that had undone her.

Upon enquiry among the neighbours, she was inform'd that the house was noted for giving reception to people who liked each other more than they were willing the world should know they did ; and this put a stratagem into her head, which was crown'd with all the success she could wish or hope ; not only for exploring what at present was a mystery to her, but also for being amply revenged on her fair-rival.

The mistress of Miramour knew the town long before she knew him, and was not unacquainted with the customs of such houses ; — she went one morning to the governante of this, and after saying that she had been recommended by a person who knew her, told her she should be glad to have a chamber, to which she might sometimes come with a friend, whom it was not convenient for her to see at home : — the old gentlewoman reply'd, that her best room was rented by the quarter, by a lady who came often thither ; and that the next, which was the only one she had to spare, the others being occupy'd by herself and family, she fear'd would be too small. — Roxana cry'd, she did not regard how small it was, provided it was otherwise commodious ; — on this she was shew'd up to it, and finding it was divided from the other only by a thin wainscot partition, presently agreed for it, giving the old woman so good a premium in hand that she was highly satisfied with her new incumbent.

Having accomplish'd so far of her design, as to get possession of the very next room to that where her lover and his new mistress met, she began to consider, that
to

to go thither alone might raise some suspicions in the woman of the house, and was a little at a loss what man she should take with her and make pass for a gallant, as whoever went he must of necessity be made the confidante of the whole affair ; — at last she pitch'd upon the fellow she had employ'd as a spy upon Miramour ; — his appearance, indeed, was very mean ; but that, she thought, would not be regarded, because there are many fine ladies in town who might be glad of such a place for an interview with their butler or coachman.

Accordingly she went the next day, accompany'd by her pretended gallant ; — they were there some time before the hour in which he had told her he had seen Miramour go in, in order to prepare things for a more perfect discovery ; — this was done by the young fellow's boring holes through the wainscot in so dexterous a manner, that they could see all over the room without being seen themselves, though they stood close to the orifice : — no one, however, came that night, and the impatient Roxana was obliged to return home as unsatisfied as ever.

The

The next day she repair'd thither again, attended as before, and met with the same disappointment; but on the third was more successful: — she had not been many minutes in the chamber when a rustling of silks upon the stairs made her know somebody was coming up, on which she ran hastily, without making any noise, to one of the peep-holes; — but how great was her astonishment when she saw Sabina enter; — scarce could she refrain exclaiming aloud against the treachery of a woman, who, after being made her confidant, had robb'd her of the best part of the affections of her lover.

But soon the current of her passion turn'd a different way, when, instead of Miramour, she saw Youngly push open the door and throw himself into Sabina's arms; on which, withdrawing from her post, ‘You fool, cry'd she to her emissary, to what a fruitless labour have you expos'd me? — it is not Miramour; but Youngly that I have all this while paid you for following. — How could you be so mope-ey'd as to mistake the one for the other?’

‘Nay,

‘ Nay, madam, reply’d the fellow, I
‘ am sure I know mr. Miramour, and I
‘ will swear that it was him that I saw
‘ come into this house, and presently
‘ after a lady in a chair, as I then told
‘ you.’ — ‘ ’Tis false, return’d she ; —
‘ but look there and be convinced.’

He then put his eye to one of the
crevices ; but returning from it in a mo-
ment, said, — ‘ Madam, I see very plain-
‘ ly that the person in the next room is
‘ not mr. Miramour, — and one I never
‘ saw before ; yet am very positive it was
‘ mr. Miramour whom I follow’d from
‘ his own house to this very door.’

Roxana knew not what to think about
this and said no more ; but, listening at-
tentively to the conversation within, was
presently assured by it that her agent had
neither deceived her, nor had been de-
ceived himself.

The reader must observe, that this was
the evening ensuing that wherein she had
call’d on him at the coffee-house, and the
remembrance of the reproach he had
then made her at the coach door, occa-
sion’d her to speak to him in this manner,
while fondly hanging on his breast :

Sabina.

Sabina. ‘ My dear, dear Youngly, I
‘ I hope you will now believe that I love
‘ you above all the world.’

Youngly. ‘ I know you love me enough
‘ to make me happy, and I ought to
‘ content myself with the share I have in
‘ your affections.’

Sabina. ‘ Do not talk of a share, —
‘ by Heaven you engross me all ! — my
‘ soul and all its faculties are devoted to
‘ you.’

Youngly. ‘ And yet the letter Mira-
‘ mour accidentally dropp’d in the Park
‘ and I took up, flatter’d him with the
‘ same assurances you now give me.

Sabina. ‘ As I unfortunately play’d
‘ the fool with him before I saw you,
‘ it was necessary I should break with him
‘ by degrees ; for to have done it all at
‘ once might have made him expose me.’

Youngly. ‘ You had once, however,
‘ a real passion for him.’

Sabina. ‘ No, — it was all in imagi-
‘ nation ; — I only fancied I lov’d him :
‘ — you must know, that silly vain crea-
‘ ture,

‘ture, his kept mistress, was always filling my ears with stories of the violence of his affection for her; and it was more to shew him the difference between such a wretch and a woman of quality, than any extraordinary liking I had to his person, that induced me to grant him the favours I did.’

This was enough to let the listening Roxana into the whole of the affair; — it was with much ado she restrained herself from flying into the next room, and returning the contempt thrown upon her by the last words of Sabina; but just as she was at the door, and ready to burst in on the unsuspecting pair, a sudden thought made her turn back, — ‘All I can say to this perfidious woman, cry’d she to herself, will avail me nothing: — the wrongs I have received demand a vengeance more complete.’

She then sat down again, and calmly meditating on what she had to do, the fertility of her invention soon supply’d her with the means of repaying, with interest, the double affront Sabina had given both to herself and Miramour, whom it is certain she loved with more sincerity than is commonly found among woman of her profession.

She.

She staid till the lovers took their leaves of each other, and heard an appointment made between them to meet again on the ensuing Thursday.

Having fully perfected in her mind the design she soon after put in execution, she call'd for the woman of the house and said to her, — ‘ Madam, I know
‘ not but some gentlemen may pass an
‘ hour or two with me here next Thursday ; — they may possibly come before
‘ me, but desire you will give them admittance ; and, to prevent mistakes, as
‘ the furniture of the room is yellow,
‘ they shall ask for the key of the yellow
‘ chamber.’

The other reply'd, that she might depend on her punctuality in observing her commands ; after which Roxana went away : but what she meant by the orders she had given must be left to the next chapter to explain.





C H A P. VIII.

Contains the catastrophe of an adventure, which the author thinks fit to declare is inserted in these lucubrations less to amuse his reader than for the sake of setting in a true light those facts which some people have artfully endeavoured to misrepresent to the public.

ROXANA being now fully furnished with materials for her revenge on Sabina, without exposing her beloved Miramour to the resentment of an injured husband, wrote to the latter the next morning, in words to this effect :

TO GERMANICUS.

“ S I R,

“ **T**HIS brings you a very ungrateful piece of intelligence ; — but,
“ in my opinion, whoever sees a person
“ wronged and conceals it, takes part in
“ the offence, and tho’ innocent of the
“ commencement of the crime, is accessary
“ to the continuance of it ; — it would
“ certainly

“ certainly be the utmost injustice that
“ you should be the last person to know
“ what concerns yourself alone, and I
“ therefore think it my duty to inform
“ you of what chance has discovered to
“ me.

“ Your wife, Sir, is false to your bed,
“ and lavishes on mr. Youngly all those
“ favours which you have a right to en-
“ gross ; — the guilty pair meet twice or
“ thrice every week, at a lodging she
“ rents by the quarter for that purpose.

“ But to say your wife is guilty of so
“ foul a crime is doing nothing, without
“ putting it in your power to prove her
“ so ; — the thing is easy, sir, if you
“ will follow my directions ; — the lovers
“ have appointed to meet to-morrow
“ about seven at their usual rendezvous,
“ — if you go at that time, or rather be-
“ fore it, to the third house on the left
“ hand in *** lane, on your asking mrs.
“ ****, who is the keeper of this private
“ brothel, and telling her you want the
“ key of the yellow chamber, she will
“ presently conduct you to a room ad-
“ joining to that which is the scene of
“ your wife’s loose pleasure ; — there are
“ holes already bored through the wain-
“ scot, through which you may plainly
“ discern

“ discern all that passes. — It is at your
“ own option; whether you will have any
“ other witnesses of your wife’s trans-
“ gression than your own eyes, and also
“ how to behave towards her after de-
“ tection. }— I have discharged the dic-
“ tates of my conscience in giving you
“ this information, and am,

“ SIR,

“ Your unknown friend.”

“ P. S. Be careful to drop no words
“ that may give the woman of the house
“ the least cause to suspect either who you
“ are, or the motive of your coming.”

It is convenient that I should now acquaint my reader, that all I have hitherto related of this story has come to my knowledge entirely by the report of the persons chiefly concerned in it, and without the least assistance from my Belt of Invisibilty; — what yet remains to be told I have the testimony of my own eyes and ears to avouch.

The many odd accounts I heard, from time to time, in relation to Sabina’s conduct, made me resolve to go one day to the house of Germanicus, in order to satisfy
my

my curiosity with seeing in what fashion this couple behaved to each other.

The lady was abroad when I came, but I found him up in his dinning-room, diverting himself with playing on the flute ; was soon after rous'd from that amusement by the above letter being delivered to him by his man, saying, it was brought by a fellow who the moment he had put it into his hands vanished like lightning from the door.

The emotions with which he read it were very great, yet much less than might have been expected on such an occasion ; — he paused, — then read again, — examined every line with heedful eyes, and seemed extremely divided in his thoughts what credit he should give to the information ; — at last said to himself :

Germanicus. ‘ If any one had formed
‘ this contrivance, through a malicious
‘ design of ruining her reputation or my
‘ peace of mind, they would certainly
‘ have taken other methods, and not
‘ by pointing out the place, the hour, put
‘ it in my power to prove at once the
‘ falseness of the accusation.’

After

After this he threw himself into an easy chair, — leaned his head upon his hand, and in that posture continued musing for a considerable time, — then seeming more resolved, started up and cry'd :

Germanicus. * It is easy for me to
‘ make enquiry if there be such a house,
‘ — if kept by a woman of the name
‘ mentioned in the letter, and what cha-
‘ racter it bears. — Yet why should I do
‘ this? — No, it is better to follow the
‘ instructions given me, and be at once
‘ assured ; — it shall be so, — as Shakspear
‘ makes Othello say,

I'll see before I doubt ; when I doubt,
 prove ;
And on the proof there is no more but
 this ;
Away at once with love or jealousy.

He had scarce done repeating these lines, when Sabina came in singing an Italian air ; — Germanicus endeavoured to recompose his countenance ; but could not do it so well as not to make her take notice of the change, and ask if he were out of humour ; — to which he reply'd :

Germanicus. ‘ Out of humour, madam;
 ‘ — no, — I have no cause, — none in
 ‘ the world.’

Sabina. ‘ I think not, indeed; but
 ‘ men will be peevish sometimes, cause or
 ‘ not cause.’

Germanicus. ‘ I reserve all my gaiety
 ‘ for to-morrow, — and would have you
 ‘ do so too; — a kinsman of mine
 ‘ makes an entertainment, and has sent an
 ‘ invitation for us to be partakers of it.’

Sabina. ‘ What to-morrow?’

Germanicus. ‘ Yes, my dear, to-mor-
 ‘ row evening; — so desire you will not
 ‘ engage yourself elsewhere.’

Sabina. ‘ Indeed I have engaged
 ‘ myself already to lady Gape’s assem-
 ‘ bly.’

Germanicus. ‘ You have time enough
 ‘ then to send to excuse yourself from
 ‘ going.’

Sabina. ‘ Indeed I shall not; — I
 ‘ would not disappoint my dear lady
 ‘ Gape for all the kinsmen in the
 ‘ world; but I would have you go, —
 ‘ you

'you may say I am not well, and
'then my absence cannot be taken
'amiss.'

It was very plain to me, that Germanicus made this pretended invitation only as a trap to discover whether she had really any engagement on her hands that she would not be willing to break ; and it is also as little to be doubted, but that her answers very much corroborated the contents of the epistle he had just received.

He forced himself, however, to tell her with a smile, that every thing should be as she would have it, and that he would no farther press her.

Some company presently after coming in, I found there was nothing more to be learned at that time, so took the first opportunity of quitting the house ; and went again, the next day in the afternoon, in the hope of discovering something more.

On my arrival, the husband and wife were sitting together in the most seeming amicable manner ;—after some little time Germanicus rose up and put on his hat and sword, in order, as he said, to go to

his kinsman ; on which Sabina, with a great deal of complaisance, said to him :

Sabina. ‘ You will not walk sure, my dear ; — Have you ordered the Horfes to be put to ? ’

Germanicus. ‘ No, my dear ; I leave the coach for you.’

Sabina. ‘ There is no occasion, — I always chuse to go to these places in a chair.’

Germanicus. ‘ That is as you please ; — but I shall walk, as I have three or four places to call at in my way to my cousin’s ; — so farewell, my dear, I hope you will be as merry at the assembly, as I hope to be at the entertainment.’

As I imagined Germanicus had something in his head more than I knew of, by his being so hasty to be gone, I followed him close at his heels, and found I had not been mistaken in my supposition ; — he went into a tavern, where two gentlemen, whom he had desired to meet him there, waited for him ; — the business he had with them, was to communicate
the

the letter he had received from the unknown friend; and after having considered a little on the matter, they both agreed they should all three go together, not only to prevent any indiscreet effects of his rage on the persons who wronged him, in case the affair should prove as the letter had represented; but also to be his witnesses, if he thought proper to bring it before a court of judicature.

They staid till a little before seven, — then went, according to the directions given by Roxana, — found every thing answered the description; — they were shewed up into the yellow chamber; I still accompanied them, and made a fourth person, unfelt, as well as unseen by any of them.

They had not been there above half an hour before Sabina came into the next room, — Youngly soon after joined her; and the much-injured husband and his two friends saw enough, from the peep-holes in the partition, to convince them of the truth of that information which had brought them thither.

Difficult was it for Germanicus to restrain his fury on so shocking a spectacle; but his two friends reminding him that
H 3 there

there was a much better way for him to shew his resentment, he was at length prevailed on to retire.

They both went home with him, as did myself, resolved to see what farther events this night would produce.

Sabina came not home till near two hours past midnight; — Germanicus ordered that the door should not be opened; but, after her chairmen had knock'd two or three times, went himself to the parlour-window and spoke to her in these terms:

Germanicus. ‘ Please, madam, to return from whence you came, or wherever else you shall think proper, — my house shall no longer be the shelter of a prostitute.’

Sabina. ‘ What! is the man mad! — Sure you have been drinking bad wine to-night.’

Germanicus. ‘ No, madam, the best I ever drank in my Life, — it has opened my eyes, and shewed me the viper I have so long cherished in my bosom, and now throw off for ever; — but I would not wish you to stay longer in the cold

‘ cold, — you can have no entrance here,
‘ and mr. Youngly will doubtless afford
‘ you a part of his bed.’

With these words he shut the window, and Sabina, finding herself detected, — and that her husband was resolute, ordered her chair from the door; and after some little consideration how to dispose of herself, thought it best to take her husband’s advice, and return to the place from whence she came, as it was the only asylum to which she could have recourse at so unseasonable an hour.

In the several visits I afterwards made to Germanicus, I perceived he behaved with much more moderation than some husbands would have done; — Philosophy had taught him to support with patience a misfortune which was irremediable; — he contented himself with taking such revenge as the laws of England have provided in these cases; — Youngly was summoned before a court of judicature, and a penalty inflicted on him for his offence; but it would have been larger, had it not been proved, by incontestable evidences, that he had not been the first who had seduced Sabina from her marriage vows.

As for the lady, she is now abandoned and despised by both her lovers ; and if there be a possibility that any thing can bring her to a just sense of the faults she has been guilty of, it must be the contempt she is treated with by all degrees of people.

End of the Third BOOK.



T H E



THE
Invisible Spy.



BOOK IV.



CHAP. II.

In which the Author confesses having been guilty of petty larceny; but hopes that the fact is of such a nature as will not come under the cognizance of the law; and also that it merits forgiveness from those into whose hands this work may fall, as the chief motive for committing it was to oblige the public.



I HAVE been intimately acquainted with Belinda for a considerable time in my visible capacity; yet never once took it into my head to make her a visit under the cover of my Belt till her return from

Bath this last season; nor perhaps had done it then, if I had not been told that she suffer'd herself to be conducted to that place by a certain gentleman whom I thought it highly improper for her to continue any conversation with, for reasons which I shall hereafter make no scruple to reveal.

On my entering her apartment I found her very busy with her waiting-maid unpacking her baggage, which coming by the waggon, it seems, had arrived in town but the night before.

As I could promise myself but little entertainment from the assortment of ribbands and jewels, or to the removal from the portmanteau to the Indian chest, the peit-en-lair, the robe de chambre, the jupe volante, or any other implement of female finery, I was thinking to quit the place and return at a more fit season, when the maid pulling out a pretty large fatten bag full of papers, ask'd her lady where she would have those writings laid, on which Belinda turn'd her head that way and reply'd :

Belinda. ' They are only a heap of
' letters I received at Bath, of no manner
' of consequence, — I have no room for
' such

‘such rubbish; — take them and throw them all into the fire.’

The maid was just going to do as she was bid, but was stopp’d by Belinda, who suddenly scream’d out :

Belinda. ‘Hold ! hold ! — I had forgot that one day, in a hurry, I stuff’d two or three letters and poems of Philander’s among them ; and I would not have one line of that dear witty creature’s destroy’d for all the world : — pour them all out of the bag, and look on the names subscrib’d, that I may direct you how to separate the wheat from the chaff.’

The maid then threw them all down upon the carpet, and open’d them one by one ; — on the first that came to her hands she said to her lady :

Maid. ‘Here is one, madam, from your aunt, lady Careful.’

Belinda. ‘Advice for my conduct at Bath : — insipid ; — throw it aside.’

Maid. ‘One, madam, from your cousin, mrs. Prudence Wishwell.’

Belinda. ‘ On the same dull subject;
‘ — put it to the other.’

Maid. ‘ One from mr. Tradewell,
‘ madam.’

Belinda. ‘ Oh, that was to recom-
‘ mend a rich merchant of his acquaint-
‘ tance to me for a lover : — nonsense,
‘ — as if after having known the court
‘ I could ever think of becoming a city
‘ dame : — let this wiseacre’s epistle
‘ keep company with the rest.’

Maid. ‘ One from mrs. Letitia Vain-
‘ love, madam.’

Belinda. ‘ Silly creature ; — she loves
‘ a man that has courted her half seven
‘ years, yet refuses to marry him, for
‘ fear he should afterwards give her cause
‘ to love him less : — I shall keep no
‘ such stuff by me.’

Maid. ‘ Oh, madam, here is some-
‘ thing from Philander.’

Belinda. ‘ Give it me, — quick.’

The maid having given her the paper,
she cry’d out,

Belinda.

Belinda. ‘ Oh, the engaging creature!
‘ — This was wrote a little before I
‘ went down to Bath. — Don’t you re-
‘ member, Sally, that he came one day
‘ when I was abroad, — and how vex’d
‘ I was when I came home, ’till he sent a
‘ messenger quite from the city to me
‘ with this little billet?’

Maid. ‘ Yes, madam, I think I do,
‘ and that your ladyship did nothing but
‘ quarrel with me because I had per-
‘ suaded you to go out that day.’

Belinda. ‘ You must not mind that,
‘ Sally ;—you know I made you amends
‘ next day, by giving you a new set of
‘ topknots ; — but you shall hear how
‘ prettily he writes :

Wrote extempore, from a coffee-house
in the city, after being disappointed of
seeing the adorable Belinda at her
lodgings.

From Whitehall stairs, whence oft, with
distant view,
I’ve gaz’d whole midnight hours on
hours away,
Blest but to see the roof that cover’d you,
And watch’d beneath what star you
sleeping lay.

I came,

158 *The Invisible SPY.*

I came, to give my labouring thoughts
full scope

To love, and your soft charms my all
devote,

To paint my soul, trembling 'twixt fear
and hope,

And speak that passion which my looks
denote.

But when I miss'd you, and took boat
again,

Scarce could my tongue the proper
order give,

Nor my swool'n eyes the starting tears
restrain,

While I drove downwards to this busy
hive.

Landed at length, I sate coffee drink,

And ill furrounded by a noisy tribe,

Regardless what they say, or do, or think,

I, wrapt in your dear Heaven, my loss
describe.

“ But there is no describing either the

“ transports that your presence gives, or

“ the insupportable anguish of your ab-

“ sence,—both are alike beyond the reach

“ of words, and can only be felt by

“ The adoring,

“ PHILANDER.”

Maid.

Maid. ‘ He is a sweet gentleman,
‘ indeed, madam ;—what a pity it is that
‘ he is married.’

Belinda. ‘ So it is, Sally ; — but yet
‘ I don’t know whether I should like him
‘ half so well, if that vain thing, his
‘ wife, were not so ridiculously jealous of
‘ him.’

Maid. ‘ Sure, madam, she can’t be
‘ very vain, if she does not think she has
‘ merit enough to keep her own husband
‘ to herself ?’

Belinda. ‘ You are a fool, and know
‘ nothing of the matter ; — I tell you she
‘ must be vain, and impudently vain too,
‘ ever to have expected such a thing.

Maid. ‘ Indeed, madam, if ever I
‘ marry I should expect it, and be very
‘ angry if I found it otherwise.’

Belinda. ‘ What, I warrant you and
‘ your spouse must be like old Joan and
‘ Darby in the song ; — but I will give
‘ you an instance of the folly of Phi-
‘ lander’s wife : — you must know, that
‘ because he is a wit and a poet, she
‘ affects to scribble sometimes : — I was
‘ there

‘ there one day and she red over a copy
 ‘ of verses to me, which she told me she
 ‘ had wrote to a lady whom she thought
 ‘ liked her husband but too well ; — I
 ‘ knew well enough she meant me, tho’
 ‘ she said another : — I remember nothing
 ‘ of the poem but the two last lines ; —
 ‘ but I never shall forget with what an
 ‘ air of imaginary triumph she repeated
 ‘ them, looking me full in the face all
 ‘ the time ; — the words were these :

In vain, alas, are all your arts, — since he,
 By love, and law, must only live for me.

‘ Philander was present, and gave her
 ‘ a look which shew’d how little he was
 ‘ pleas’d with her behaviour ; and I was
 ‘ told by one of the family, us’d her very
 ‘ ill upon it after I was gone.’

Maid. ‘ Yet she often visits you,
 ‘ madam, and is always sending invita-
 ‘ tions to you to come to her house.’

Belinda. ‘ She dare do no otherwise,
 ‘ Philander will be obey’d, and she has
 ‘ cunning enough to know it is her in-
 ‘ tereſt to seem to do without reluctance
 ‘ whatever he would have her ; but I
 ‘ know she hates me in her heart as
 ‘ much as I despise her : — but come,
 ‘ look

‘ look over the rest of the trumpery,
‘ while I lock up this billet in my
‘ cabinet.’

On this the maid went about examining the other papers, and taking one up in her hand, after having seen the name, cry’d out with some eagerness :

Maid. ‘ Oh ! madam, here is a letter
‘ from mrs. Friendly, — the good-natured
‘ gentlewoman that sent her servants to
‘ help you out with your things when the
‘ fire was at next door, and took such
‘ care of them till the danger was over ;
‘ — What will you have done with
‘ this ?’

Belinda. ‘ It is not worth preserving ;
‘ — ’tis a strange thing, that if people
‘ do one a kindness once they think one
‘ is obliged to use them civilly ever after.
‘ — What more ?’

Maid. ‘ A whole packet of epistles
‘ from Selima.’

Belinda. ‘ Ay, the impertinent crea-
‘ ture has given me a long detail of her
‘ love affairs, as if I had not enough of
‘ that sort of my own to employ my
‘ thoughts with.’

Maid.

Maid. ‘ One from mr. Worthy, madam.’

Belinda. ‘ He was my lover once ; but I never paid any regard to his affection, and much less to his resentment for the ill usage he pretends to have received from me ; — but you need search no farther, — I have found all Philander’s letters and poems in this draw, so cram together all you have there and thrust them into the fire.’

This sentence was punctually executed, according to the best of the maid’s belief ; but the poor girl knew not that there was an Invisible Thief, who stood close at her elbow, and while she turned her head another way had the dexterity to preserve some part of the condemn’d cargo, and slip it into his pocket.

Selima at that time engrossed a good part of the conversation in town ; — she was a young woman of no fortune, and few other endowments besides her beauty, of which, in the opinion of most people, she has an uncommon share ; though to me there is a certain fierceness in her eyes, and a boldness diffused through

through all her features, which rob them of that loveliness they would otherwise have; — such as she is, however, she captivated the hearts of two persons who might have carried their addresses much higher without danger of a refusal; — the one is born to a title, and the other possessed of wealth, which when ever he pleases may procure him one; and neither of them can be thought deficient in any of those qualifications which constitute the fine gentleman; — yet Selima was still unmarried; — both her lovers were equally in suspense, and nobody could tell which, or whether either of them would be the happy man.

It is not therefore to be wondered at, that a person of my humour should be extremely desirous of being let into a secret which seem'd so impenetrable, even to those who pretended to be most knowing in other things; nor that I gladly embraced an opportunity which bids so fair for the satisfaction of my curiosity, as the getting her letters into my possession, Belinda having said they contain'd the whole history of this affair.

Behold now my theft; — Belinda's maid had no sooner laid down the packet, by her lady's orders, than I kept my eye constantly

constantly fixed upon it, 'till a convenient moment offer'd for conveying it from among the others, which I did with as much adroitness as if I had been bred to the art and mystery of stealing from my cradle.

After this I staid no longer with Belinda, not doubting but I had now about me better materials for my entertainment than any I could expect to be furnish'd with in her apartment, at least for the present.

~~XX~~

C H A P. II.

If there be any reader, in this very pious and religious age, that may happen to have too tender and scrupulous a conscience to benefit himself by the receipt of stolen goods, the author thinks it highly necessary to give him this timely notice, that it will be best for his peace of mind to avoid looking either into this or some of the succeeding chapters.

THE distance between Belinda's lodgings and my own seem'd now to be twice as long as usual, though I believe

lieve I measured much fewer paces than ever I had done before, so great was my impatience to be at home and examine the treasure I brought with me.

But as too much eagerness often impedes the accomplishment of our designs, after I got into my apartment I shut myself into a closet; but, in the hurry of my thoughts, had forgot to give orders to my people to say I was from home, to any one that should come to visit me; and I had scarce unloaded my pocket when I was told a gentleman was below and desir'd to speak with me; — this was a person for whom I had a very great regard, and at any other time should have been glad to see, but his company at this juncture I should gladly have dispensed with; — I had no reason, however, to be chagrin'd at the interruption he gave me, as will presently appear.

As soon as the first compliments were over, and we had seated ourselves, he ask'd me if I had heard the news to-day; — I told him I had not seen any of the papers. — ‘What I mean, said he, is of too late a date to be got as yet into the public papers; — but I suppose to-morrow they will all be full of it.’ — ‘Is it of any moment, cry'd I?’ — ‘Not much

‘ apprehensive that his marriage with
‘ Selima will, in a manner, compel him
‘ to break through this injunction.’

As I could not well comprehend his meaning in these last words, I desir’d he would be more explicit, and he very readily oblig’d me in his reply, which was to this effect :

‘ I will tell you, said he ; the expences
‘ of a marriage bed are very great to persons of quality, especially in an age so
‘ luxurious as this ; and I much fear that
‘ the estate of Dorantes will be found insufficient to defray them, without the
‘ assistance of some lucrative employment ; — and it is for this reason I
‘ could wish he had married a woman of
‘ fortune.’

‘ Perhaps, return’d I, that as Selima
‘ brought with her nothing but her person, she will content herself without
‘ any of those superfluities which otherwise she would have had a kind of right
‘ to expect.’

‘ You talk like one that knows nothing
‘ of the world, cry’d he ; people raised
‘ from indigence to grandeur, must have
‘ a head well stored with wisdom not to
‘ grow

‘grow giddy with the sudden exaltation;
‘Selima is young, gay, and vain to an
‘excess. — Have we not seen her thrust
‘herself into assemblies where she had no
‘pretence to come, and bear a thousand
‘affronts for the intrusion, merely for the
‘sake of boasting afterwards among her
‘acquaintance, that she had been in such
‘and such company, and in such and
‘such places? — Then as to the article of
‘dress, no one certainly was ever more
‘particular and affected.’

‘Can it therefore be imagined, con-
‘tinued he, that a woman so passionately
‘fond of shew, and so ambitious of ren-
‘dering herself conspicuous, should not
‘take all the opportunities of doing so
‘now, when fortune has put it in her
‘power to appear with all those real ad-
‘vantages, which before she could only
‘ape in a tawdry manner? — And can it
‘be supposed that the same love, which
‘induced him to make her his wife, will
‘not also induce him to indulge her in the
‘full splendor of that dignity to which
‘he has raised her; nay, even to humour
‘her in every folly and extravagance her
‘heart may happen to be set upon?’

Tho’ I found a good deal of reason;
according to appearance, in what my
friend

friend had said, yet I suspended my judgment, 'till I should see in what manner this lady had unbosom'd herself to her confidante Belinda, which I was now more than ever impatient to do, and heartily wish'd he would take his leave.

At length he went, and I again retir'd to my closet, after having given proper instructions to prevent a second interruption. — To avoid confusion, I examined the dates of every letter, and shall present them to my readers in the order they were sent.

LETTER I.

TO BELINDA, at Bath.

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ **I** Received the favour of yours with
“ a double satisfaction; first, as it
“ brought me news of your safe arrival
“ at that agreeable place, and that every
“ thing in it answered your wishes and
“ expectations; — and, secondly, — as
“ it assures me of your friendship by the
“ kind concern you are pleased to express
“ for my welfare.

“ As to my health, I have quite lost
“ that ugly cough, which so much per-
Vol. II. I “ secuted

"Secuted me when you left London ; —
 "but as to my affairs, they are still in
 "the same fluctuating and unsettled con-
 "dition as ever ; — Dorantes continues
 "his addresses, Vanucius does the same ;
 "—How happy might I be if I was loved
 "but by one of them ? — but both
 "equally pursuing me, impedes all the
 "good fortune I might enjoy with either,
 "so that I may justly say with the
 "Poet,

Too much plenty makes me poor.

"You may remember how much my
 "mamma was transported when Dorantes
 "first declared himself my lover ; —
 "Vanucius, tho' not quite dropp'd, was
 "then little regarded either by myself or
 "her ; but now the case is altered ; —
 "she charges me to treat both with an
 "equal freedom ; and, indeed, I think it
 "would be highly impolitic to do other-
 "wise.

"The truth is, Dorantes does not come
 "so directly to the point as could be
 "wished ; — his courtship is passionate,
 "tender, and full of fire ; — he swears I
 "am the idol of his soul, — his earthly
 "goddess, — that he could not live with-
 "out me, — and that all his hopes are
 "center'd

“ center’d in being one day happy in pos-
“ sessing me ; yet, among all these fine
“ speeches, he seldom mentions mar-
“ riage ; and when he does, it is in so
“ slight and evasive a manner as gives
“ me sometimes cause to fear his designs
“ are rather on my heart than hand.

“ If this should be his intention, and I
“ were weak enough to have fixed my
“ affection on him, how miserable should
“ I be ? — but, thank Heaven, I have
“ none of that soft folly in my com-
“ position, by which I have seen so
“ many of our sex misled ; — my ruling
“ passions are interest and ambition ;
“ and I would not hesitate one moment
“ to give myself to Vanucius, if the rank
“ and title of Dorantes did not tempt me
“ to wait a-while the result of his preten-
“ sions.

“ I was yesterday morning in the Mall
“ with Vanucius, Dorantes was walking
“ there with some company ; — he
“ changed colour, and seemed in some
“ agitation on meeting us together ; —
“ this I looked upon as a good sign ; but
“ in the afternoon, when he came to visit
“ me, and I expected he would either have
“ complained of my indifference to him,
“ or reproached me for the public en-

“ couragement I had given his rival ; he
“ did neither, but behaved the whole
“ time he staid with all the calmness and
“ insensibility of a Stoick.

“ I must confess I was never more dis-
“ appointed in all my life, as I had fre-
“ quently seen him kindle into jealousy on
“ a less occasion, and could not help
“ thinking that the violence of his passion
“ was in a great measure abated, — ac-
“ cording to this maxim of mr. Deyden :

Difftrust in lovers is too warm a sun ;
But yet 'tis night in love when that is
gone,

“ On consulting with my mamma, I
“ found she was of the same way of think-
“ ing, and it was agreed upon between us,
“ not to suffer ourselves to be trifled with
“ any longer, but that the next time
“ Vanucius made an offer of his hand I
“ should accept it,

“ But, my dear Belinda, this morning
“ has put a stop to the resolution of last
“ night ; — I was scarce out of bed when
“ I received from Dorantes the most
“ passionate billet that ever was dictated
“ by the heart of man, occasioned, as
“ he says, by dreaming he had me in his
“ arms ;

“ arms ; — if his love be half so impatient to have me there as he pretends it is, he will certainly be now more pressing to make me his own than hitherto he has been.

“ My next, perhaps, may bring you the decision of my fate ; — in the meantime I should be glad to know what is doing at Bath, and what new conquest you have made there ; for how much soever you may be envied by some of your acquaintance, be assured that every thing that contributes to your satisfaction will always afford a secret pleasure to her who is,

“ With the most perfect amity,

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ Your affectionate friend

“ And humble Servant,

“ SELIMA,

LETTER II.

TO BELINDA, at Bath.

Dear BELINDA,

“ I Am sorry to tell you, that the perplexity of my own affairs has hinder'd me from being inquisitive
I 3 “ enough

“ enough into those of other people, for
“ me to be able to send you the intelli-
“ gence you request ; but as I flatter my-
“ self, and you are so good to say that
“ what regards myself will be always
“ most interesting to you, I shall give
“ you a brief detail of what has happen’d
“ to me in relation to Dorantes, since
“ his last kind letter mention’d in my
“ former.

“ He came the same evening, — the
“ discourse he entertain’d me with was of
“ a piece with his epistle, — all love and
“ transport ; — he begg’d I would fa-
“ vour him with my company to the
“ Theatre in Drury-Lane, where he had
“ already sent a servant to keep places in
“ the box ; — I consented, and went
“ with him in his chariot, — the play was
“ *Romeo and Juliet* ; — he apply’d all
“ the tender things spoke by the former
“ of these lovers to his own passion, and
“ press’d my hand with a vehemence of
“ fondness, whenever he had an opportu-
“ nity of doing so unperceiv’d by the
“ audience.

“ I saw him again the next day, — we
“ were alone together in the dining-room,
“ and my gown being a little more off my
“ shoulder than ordinary, he laid his face
“ upon

“ upon my bare neck, crying,” ‘ Oh ! I
‘ could dwell for ever here !’ — “ On this
“ I took courage to say to him,” — ‘ Yet,
‘ Dorantes, when once I become your
‘ wife, these ardours will perhaps sink
‘ into a cold indifference.’ — ‘ No, my
‘ angel ! return’d he, desire will rather
‘ increase by enjoyment of your person ;
‘ — the sweets contain’d in this dear frame
‘ are of too divine a nature ever to satiate.’

“ In speaking these words he caught
“ me suddenly in his arms, held me to
“ his bosom, and joined his lips to
“ mine with somewhat, I thought, of an
“ unbecoming warmth ;— I struggled to
“ get loose, and when I had done so re-
“ tired some paces from him, and said ;
“ with all the haughtiness I could assume,
“ Forbear these liberties, sir, till authorised
“ by law to take them ; — he asked my
“ pardon, — apologized for what he
“ had done by the violence of his passion,
“ and then sat down ; but appeared more
“ than ordinarily pensive afterwards, —
“ spoke little, and made his visit much
“ shorter than usual.

“ On my acquainting my mamma
“ with what had passed between us, she
“ did not at all like it, and went directly
“ to her old friend, you know who I

“ mean, to be advised by him how to
“ proceed in a circumstance at once so
“ intricate and critical; — he told her,
“ that my father ought to appear in this
“ business, and that it was his place, and
“ his alone, to demand of Dorantes an
“ explanation of his designs in regard to
“ the courtship he so long had made to
“ his daughter.

“ My mamma had always been of this
“ opinion; but knowing the indolence
“ of my father’s temper, had forbore
“ mentioning it to him; however she
“ now did so; and to engage his compliance,
“ promised to make him a
“ present of a new wig and silver-hilted
“ sword; but all she could say or offer
“ has been ineffectual; — his answer
“ was, — That he did not know how to
“ speak to a person of Dorantes’s quality
“ on any such matter; — that he would
“ not interfere in it, and we might act as
“ we thought proper ourselves.

“ This, you will own, is very vexatious;
“ but there is no turning him out of his
“ own way; — mamma is now resolved,
“ since there is no other remedy, to take
“ the task upon herself, as soon as
“ Dorantes comes to town; — he is at
“ present

“ present gone on a hunting-match with
“ some gentlemen, but is expected to re-
“ turn in two days at farthest, and we
“ shall then see the event.

“ For my part, my spirits are so much
“ fatigued and harrassed with this sus-
“ pence, that there is but one thing hin-
“ ders me from putting an immediate
“ end to it by marrying with Vanucius ;
“ — the persons of the men are equal to
“ me ; but oh, Belinda, I am passionately
“ in love with the title of Dorantes, —
“ would to God he were half as much so
“ with my person, he would not then
“ delay one moment giving me the one
“ in exchange for the other.

“ The faithful Vanucius, who I have
“ flattered with the belief of not being
“ indifferent to me, is every day solliciting
“ me to fix a time to make him happy,
“ while Dorantes seems to dally with my
“ expectations ;— yet can I not resolve to
“ reward the constant services of the one,
“ nor to renounce for ever the charming
“ hope of rank, precedence, the thousand
“ d ar appendages of a woman of quality,
“ which the other has it in his power to
“ bestow on me ; — but I will trouble
“ you no farther than to assure you, that

“ in whatever station my fate shall place
“ me, I shall be ever,

“ With the best wishes for your happiness,

“ My dear BELINDA,

“ Your sincere friend

“ And humble servant,

“ SELIMA.

“ P.S. I am highly oblig'd to Philander
“ for the part you tell me he takes in my
“ concerns; — pray be so good as to
“ make my grateful acknowledgments
“ acceptable to him.”

If I took the same pleasure in transcribing, as I did in reading the letters of Selima, I should not have stopp'd till I had laid them all before the public; but my pen requires some relaxation as well as my eyes, and I must therefore entreat the reader will give a small truce to his curiosity.



C H A P. III.

Presents the Reader with the continuance of Selima's Story, as related by herself, in several epistles to her friend, in a very natural and affecting manner.

L E T T E R III.

TO BELINDA, at Bath.

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ I Would not let this post escape
“ without writing ; — what I have
“ now to say to you, though greatly to
“ the purpose, must be comprised in a
“ few words ; — I am engag'd to go
“ this evening with Dorantes, and some
“ other company, on a party of pleasure, and I am every moment expecting
“ his landau at the door, so can but
“ just snatch time to inform you, that
“ my mamma has talk'd to him on the
“ affair in question, — and that his
“ answers have been conformable to our
“ utmost wishes ; — yes, I am now convinced that all my apprehensions were
“ ground-

“ groundless, — that he never meant to
“ act otherwise than honourably with me;
“ — he has assur’d both her and myself
“ that every thing shall soon be settled
“ for my future happiness; — rejoice
“ with me, my dear creature, — I have
“ now a heart and head perfectly at ease,
“ and nothing to employ my thoughts,
“ but how to behave becoming of the
“ dignity to which, I flatter myself, a
“ few days will raise me.

“ Farewel; — the author of my joys
“ is already come, — they call me to re-
“ ceive him, — and I can add no more,
“ than that I am, as ever,

“ With an unfeigned regard,

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ Your most humble and

“ Obedient servant,

“ SELIMA.

“ P. S. Let the length of your next
“ shew you forgive the enforced short-
“ ness of this.”



LETTER

LETTER IV.

TO BELINDA, at Bath.

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ **L**ITTLE did I expect, and little is
“ it in your power to imagine what
“ I have now to acquaint you with; —
“ so strange a reverse, — so sudden, so
“ shocking a revolution sure never any
“ woman but myself experienced; — but I
“ will keep you no longer in suspense.

“ I have lost Dorantes, — irrecoverably
“ lost him, — not through any misman-
“ agement of my own, nor any want
“ of affection in him, but through a pre-
“ vious, much worse, and more irreme-
“ dable accident: — this is the sum of
“ my misfortunes; — I will now relate
“ to you the particulars:

“ He came to me the other day, and
“ though the salutations he approached
“ me with had their accusom'd tender-
“ ness, yet I thought there were some-
“ what in his countenance, and the whole
“ air of his deportment, very different
“ from any thing I had ever seen in him
“ before: — he had not been in the room
“ many minutes before he told me, that
“ he

“ he had something of consequence to
 “ impart to me, and desir’d I would or-
 “ der myself to be deny’d to whoever
 “ should happen to come. — I readily
 “ did as he desir’d; after which he drew
 “ his chair close to mine, sigh’d, and look-
 “ ing me full in the face, surpriz’d me
 “ with these words :

‘ My dear Selima, said he, I have
 ‘ deceiv’d you : — have you love enough
 ‘ for me to forgive it ?’ ‘ First, let me
 ‘ know the nature of your offence, re-
 ‘ turn’d I.’ ‘ ’Tis death to me to de-
 ‘ clare it, answer’d he; yet can it be no
 ‘ longer hid : — I have impos’d upon you
 ‘ by a false pretence ; — promised what
 ‘ is not in my power to perform ; — I
 ‘ cannot marry you.’

“ Judge, Belinda, of my confusion ; —
 “ but it is as impossible for you to con-
 “ ceive, as it is for me to describe what
 “ I felt in that dreadful moment ; — scarce
 “ could a thunder-bolt have transfix’d
 “ me more ; — I had no breath, — no
 “ voice, but to eccho part of his last
 ‘ words, — ‘ Cannot marry ! — cannot
 ‘ marry, cry’d I!’ and this I repeated se-
 “ veral times over.

“ He

“ He seem’d all this time in very great
“ agitations, and after taking one of my
“ hands, and tenderly pressing it to his
“ lips, — ‘ Heaven knows, said he, how
“ earnestly I desired the union I proposed;
“ — gladly would I resign the one half
“ of those years fate has allotted for my
“ life, to have the other blest with the
“ possession of my Selima, in the way she
“ expects from me; — but, alas! that
“ hope is vain; — the fatal secret is this:
“ — I am already wedded, — my heed-
“ less and unwary youth was ensnar’d to
“ give my hand to a creature, who though
“ I never did, nor never will live with as
“ a wife, will not, on any consideration,
“ be prevail’d upon to resign the cursed
“ claim she has to me as a husband.’

“ Overwhelm’d, as I was, with various
“ passions, I at last assum’d resolution
“ enough to tell him, that he had acted
“ a most ungenerous and dishonourable
“ part in making his addresses to me,
“ knowing himself under so indissoluble
“ an engagement to another. — To which
“ he reply’d, that at first he hoped to
“ have got quit of his unfortunate tie;
“ — and that after he found all the offers
“ he had made to that end were fruitless,
“ the passion he had for me would not
“ suffer

“ suffer him to restrain seeing me, con-
 “ versing with me, and telling me how
 “ much he adored me.

“ He then made a long harangue on
 “ the resistless power of my charms, and
 “ the violence of that flame they had in-
 “ spir’d him with ;— swore a thousand
 “ oaths that the world to him had no-
 “ thing in it but myself worth living for ;
 “ and concluded with a proposal, that
 “ since he could not make me his wife,
 “ he would settle a thousand pounds a
 “ year upon me to be his mistress, —and
 “ that it should be at my option either
 “ to live publicly with him as such, or
 “ to continue with my mamma, and re-
 “ ceive his visits in a private manner.

“ This offer I rejected with more dis-
 “ dain than I had shewn to any of the
 “ like nature which had ever been made
 “ to me since my first being in the way
 “ of temptation ;— nor will you wonder
 “ that I did do so :— to be courted for
 “ a mistress by the very man who had so
 “ lately flatter’d me with the hopes of
 “ marriage, made me now look upon
 “ that as an affront, which before my
 “ expectations had been raised to the
 “ height they had been, I might per-
 “ haps

“ haps have taken as a proof of his affection.

“ I ranted, — storm’d, — concealed no part of the spite I was possess’d of; but all I said seem’d to make no great impression on him; — he bore it with a temper which I thought was not at all consistent with the violence of the passion he had pretended; and on his going away calmly told me, that he would make the same proposal he had done to me to no other woman in the world; — that it was no inconsiderable one; and that, as he could do no more, he hoped my cooler moments would represent it as a thing worthy my attention.

“ Indeed, my dear Belinda, I was half mad, and believe I gave myself some airs not any way becoming in me to a man of his quality. — I met him in the Park this morning, but though he was alone, and I had only Flavia with me, he never offer’d to join us, but pass’d by with a slight bow: — I suppose he resents my behaviour, but it is no matter since he is married.

“ Vanucius is now my last resource; — if I could persuade the man to purchase

“ 2

“ a title, he would be full as agreeable to
 “ me as Dorantes; — but he is an un-
 “ ambitious creature, and I almost de-
 “ spair of it, I shall try, at least, how far the
 “ love he has for me will prevail; — my
 “ next will bring you news of what suc-
 “ cess my endeavours will meet; — till
 “ when, I am,

“ Even in the midst of my perplexity,

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ Your very sincere friend,

“ And humble servant,

SELIMA.

P.S. “ I thank Philander for the sett of
 “ Bath counters he has sent me, but I
 “ know not when I shall be in a humour
 “ to make use of them.—I was last night
 “ at lady Swabler’s rout, and play’d so
 “ ill that I almost empty’d my purse
 “ of a small present my mamma’s good
 “ friend had made me to buy trinkets
 “ for my wedding.”



LETTER

LETTER V.

TO BELINDA, at Bath.

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ IT is almost a sin to disturb the felicity you enjoy with any melancholy accounts ; but fresh calamities will always occasion fresh complaints, and while I am giving you a detail of my misfortunes, methinks I am eased of some part of the weight of them : — you may say, indeed, that this is a selfish consideration, and I cannot deny the accusation ; but have this to answer in my defence, — however disagreeable the purport of my letters are, they shew, at least, the perfect confidence I have in your friendship and good-nature.

“ I am apt to think that before I tell you, you will suspect I am also deserted by Vanucius ; and tho’ I cannot be positive that such a conjecture would be entirely groundless, yet I have little reason to flatter myself with the contrary ; — I have neither seen nor heard from him for five whole days, and this morning he set out for Tunbridge, without taking any other leave of me, than

“ than sending a slight excuse for not
“ waiting on me before he went.

“ But this is not all ; — a relation of
“ his, who I know has always look’d
“ upon his courtship to me with an evil
“ eye, and had, not long ago, so great a
“ quarrel with him on the occasion, that
“ he was forbid his house, is now so far re-
“ instated in his good graces as to be gone
“ with him to the country ; and I do not
“ doubt but will take this opportunity of
“ filling his ears with a thousand stories
“ to my disadvantage, as he has ever
“ done since my first acquaintance with
“ him.

“ Thus, my dear Belinda, from having,
“ as I thought, my choice of two the
“ best matches in the town, I am likely
“ to lose all hopes of both, and also to
“ fall into the contempt and ridicule of
“ all those flirts who so lately envied my
“ good fortune.

“ This last circumstance is above all
“ so truly mortifying, that after it I
“ know not whether I shall ever be able
“ to shew my face in any public as-
“ sembly, but rather take the same pains
“ to conceal myself, as once I did to be
“ conspicuous : — but farewell, the more
“ I reflect

“ I reflect on these accidents, the less I
“ am capable of restraining my passion
“ enough to assure you,

“ With how much sincerity

“ I am,

“ My dear BELINDA,

“ Your most devoted,

“ Tho’ unfortunate friend,

“ SELIMA.”

LETTER VI.

TO BELINDA, at Bath.

“ Dear BELINDA,

“ I Expected no less from your known
“ goodness, than the consolatory ideas
“ you endeavour to inspire me with ; —
“ you would fain persuade me that I have
“ no reason for despair, and that the
“ same beauty which attracted the hearts
“ of Dorantes and Vanucius, will also
“ gain me others of equal estimation ;
“ but alas, I have too much experience of
“ myself, and of what the world thinks
“ of me, to entertain so flattering a hope.
“ — You know very well, my dear, that

“ on

“ on my first setting up for conquest, I
“ shew’d myself in all public places, and
“ exposed to the view of all who saw me,
“ almost every charm that nature has
“ bestow’d upon me, yet never was ad-
“ dress’d on the score of marriage by
“ any but those two whom I have now
“ lost.

“ Besides, I am now what they call
“ blown upon; — that admiration which
“ my first appearance excited, wears off
“ by my being so often seen, and I begin
“ to be convinced that it was more owing
“ to the peculiarity of my dress and man-
“ ner of behaviour, than to any real per-
“ fections of my person, that I was so
“ much follow’d by a gaping multitude.

“ You see how I am humbled; and,
“ by what I have said, may perhaps
“ imagine that I have so far done with
“ the pride of life and vanities of the
“ world, as to take up with a little
“ mercer or woollen-draper, if such a one
“ should offer me his hand; but do not
“ harbour so despicable an opinion of
“ your friend; — no, I will never sit be-
“ hind a compter, or be the wife of one
“ that does; — but I need not make this
“ declaration, — as matters stand I am
“ not

“not likely to be the wife of any body,
“but still,

“With an inviolable respect,

“Dear BELINDA,

“Your most obliged friend,

“And humble servant,

“SELIMA.”

~~XX~~

C H A P. IV.

*Contains the Conclusion of Selima's
letters.*

L E T T E R VII.

TO BELINDA, at Bath.

Dearest BELINDA,

“N O W may all the Gods of love
“and wit inspire my pen to de-
“scribe to you as it deserves, the blest’d
“reverse in my condition since the last
“melancholy epistle you receiv’d from
“me; — I was then plung’d in the
“lowest pit of deep despair, and am now
“raised to the highest summit of human
“feli-

“ felicity : — in a word, I am the con-
“ tracted spouse of Dorantes ; and as
“ soon as the preparations for our wed-
“ ding can be got ready, shall be the de-
“ clared ***** of *****.

“ Methinks I see the surprize I put you
“ in ; — you will doubtless cry out, —
“ How can this be ! when Dorantes has
“ already confess’d himself the lawful
“ husband of another ! — It seems, indeed,
“ a paradox, — yet stands in no need of
“ school-learning to be explain’d, — as
“ you will presently discover.

“ After the loss of both my lovers, as I
“ then imagined, I scarce did any thing
“ but lie upon the bed and weep for two
“ whole days together ; — my father, in-
“ stead of saying any thing to console
“ my afflictions, added to them by his
“ reproaches ; — he told me, — that he
“ knew what it would come to ; — that
“ dressing myself up like a Bartholomew-
“ baby would never get me an husband,
“ — and such like stuff, as you know his
“ low way of expressing himself ; — but
“ thank Heaven the tables are now turn-
“ ed upon him ; and if respect for my
“ mamma did not restrain me, I should
“ return his flouts with interest,

“ One

“ One afternoon, as I was sitting at
“ the window with the sash drawn up,
“ musing on my unhappy fate, I saw
“ Dorantes’s chariot come to the door;
“ — while his footman knock’d, he
“ look’d out and made me a very respect-
“ ful bow ;—I was amaz’d, but thought
“ it would be too gross an affront, to a
“ man of his quality, to be denied to
“ him as he saw I was at home; nor had
“ I time for such a thing, if I would
“ have done it; for the maid who open’d
“ the door shew’d him directly up stairs.

“ On his entrance I assum’d one of
“ those haughty and assur’d airs which
“ vulgar low-bred people are apt to call
“ impudent and sawcy; and with my
“ head half turn’d another way, said
“ to him,” — ‘ I am surpris’d to see you
“ here, Dorantes, after the conversation
“ you entertain’d me with at your last
“ visit.’

‘ Oh, Selima, reply’d he, I came not now
‘ to repeat the audacity I was then guilty
‘ of, nor to offend your modest ears with
‘ any future discourses of the like nature;
‘ but humbly to beg pardon for the past,
‘ and hope that what I have to offer will
‘ make some attonement.’

Vol. II.

K

‘ I do

‘ I do not comprehend your meaning,
 ‘ return’d I; but whatever it may be,
 ‘ cannot think it becomes me to continue
 ‘ any correspondence with a married man,
 ‘ who being so pretended to make his ad-
 ‘ dresses to me on an honourable score.’

‘ I am not married, rejoin’d he eager-
 ‘ ly, and the trial I made of your virtue
 ‘ adds a double lustre to the beauty that
 ‘ first inflam’d me, and I am now much
 ‘ more your slave than ever,’

‘ Not married! cried I; — Why then
 ‘ did you tell me so?’ — ‘ Pardon the
 ‘ innocent imposition I practis’d on you,
 ‘ said he, kissing my hand, — I was wil-
 ‘ ling to see in what manner you would
 ‘ resent it; — your behaviour has answer’d
 ‘ to my wish, and I now offer you a hand
 ‘ which I never had one thought or wish
 ‘ to dispose of to any other woman.’

“ Oh, Belinda, — how did my heart
 “ flutter at these words, as Semandra says
 “ in the play,

I took them all, and died upon the sound:
 To the driv’n air my flying soul was
 fasten’d,
 Each charming syllable he spoke was mine.
 “ The

“ The many passionate and endearing
“ things he said to me would not come
“ within the compass of twenty letters ;
“ you must therefore, till I have a better
“ opportunity of relating the particulars,
“ content yourself with a brief summary
“ of the whole ; — which is this, that he
“ is entirely at liberty to marry me, and
“ is resolved to do so ; — that an agree-
“ ment the same night was made between
“ us for that purpose ; and that mamma
“ and her good friend, who luckily hap-
“ pen’d to be with her, were call’d in to
“ be witnesses of it.’

“ Since every thing has been settled
“ thus happily for me, some people have
“ been impertinent enough to assure me,
“ that to their own knowledge Dorantes
“ was really married several years ago,
“ and that his wife is still alive ; — but this
“ gives me no manner of concern : — if
“ there be any woman who has a claim of
“ this nature on him, he has doubtless
“ found means to prevail on her to re-
“ linquish it, — so I look upon it as
“ none of my affair ; — he marries me
“ in the face of the world, — has pro-
“ mised to present me at court, — and
“ while I enjoy the title of ***** of
“ ***** , and the grandeur annex’d to

“ it, shall not trouble myself with any
 “ whispers that may go about the town
 “ in relation to the lawfulness or unlaw-
 “ fulness of my marriage.

“ It is no inconsiderable addition to
 “ my contentment, to hear that you de-
 “ sign to return to town in a short time ;
 “ I long to see you, and to give you an
 “ airing in my own coach and six, with
 “ three flaunting rampant footmen, in
 “ rich liveries, hanging on the back of
 “ it : — we shall cut a better figure, Be-
 “ linda, — than when we made our little
 “ excursions together in a mean dirty
 “ hack. — Oh, fortune ! — fortune ! —
 “ dear propitious fortune, how am I
 “ bound to praise thee ! — But no more
 “ at present, than that I am,

“ With the greatest good wishes,

“ Dear creature,

“ Your most affectionate,

“ And very humble servant,

‘ SELIMA.

“ P. S. I need not desire you to tell
 “ Philander what has happen’d, — I
 “ know you will, and also that his re-
 “ gard

“gard for you will make him participate in the happiness of your friend. — Once more, — adieu.”

Here end the letters of this celebrated lady; and, indeed, the picture she has given of herself in them so much resembles that drawn for her by my old friend, that I cannot avoid being of his opinion, as to the manner in which we may expect she will regulate her conduct.

I could not, however, acquit Belinda of ingratitude for the little regard she seem'd to have for one who was her intimate companion, and so frankly trusted her with her bosom secrets; — the esteem I once had for her was very much lessen'd by what I had discover'd of her temper in the Invisible Visit I had made that morning at her apartments; — and the terms in which she had express'd herself, in relation both to Philander and his wife, gave me a curiosity to see how that couple lived together.

Tho' I scarce doubted of his being in town, as Belinda was return'd from Bath, yet I sent privately to his house, in order to be more assured, and finding he was there, went one morning, imagining that

to be the most likely time to succeed in my design.

I enter'd their house in a lucky moment, — they were together, and deeply engag'd in a conversation, the beginning of which I cannot pretend to relate ; but what pass'd between them after I came in, will give the reader a sufficient sample of the disposition both of the one and the other ; — it was to this effect :

Philander. ‘ So then, you say, madam, that there are some people who pretend to give themselves airs concerning my gallantries with Belinda at Bath ?’

Wife. ‘ You know very well, sir, that the world is apt to talk on such occasions.’

Philander. ‘ Rot the world ; — that impertinent part of it, at least, whom you converse with : — ridiculous ; — as if there were any thing wonderful in a man's desiring to be in the good graces of one of the finest women in town.’

Wife. ‘ They may think, perhaps, that when a married man has such inclinations

‘clinations he ought to be more private
‘in them.’

Philander. ‘Private; — humph. —
‘What, they would have the men as
‘great prudes as the women!’

Wife. ‘You cannot think it strange,
‘however, that every one believes Be-
‘linda, with all the charms you find in
‘her, must be very destitute of admi-
‘rers, when she encourages the ad-
‘dresses of a man who has no right to
‘offer them.’

Philander. ‘Envy, by gad, — mere
‘envy of her power of making universal
‘conquests.’

Wife. ‘Scarce so; — a woman who
‘behaves in the manner she does, renders
‘herself rather an object of contempt
‘than envy.’

Philander. ‘Look-ye, madam, — you
‘may fancy what you please; but while
‘Belinda has youth, wit, and beauty on
‘her side, she will continue to be the
‘toast of all the polite part of mankind,
‘in spite of whatever malice or jealousy
‘may suggest.’

Wife. ‘ Indeed, sir, I have no malice
‘ to Belinda, nor jealousy of you, and
‘ give myself no sort of pain for what
‘ may happen between you behind the
‘ curtain ; — but I do not chuse to be
‘ publicly neglected for her sake ; — I
‘ would have you remember that I am
‘ your wife.’

Philander. ‘ Faith, madam, it is little
‘ to your interest that I should remember
‘ it’

Wife. ‘ Why so ?’

Philander. ‘ Do you not know what
‘ a certain great poet, who understood
‘ nature better than either you or I, has
‘ told us upon this head ?

———— Who loves to hear of wife ?
That dull insipid thing, without desires,
And without power to give them.

Wife. ‘ Mighty well, Philander ; —
‘ but certainly a man of this way of
‘ thinking ought never to marry.’

Philander. ‘ Stupid : — Are you so
‘ ignorant as not to know a man of
‘ fashion

“fashion marries chiefly for the sake of
“getting an heir to his estate?”

Wife. “Then love is quite out of the
“question?”

Philander. “Humph. — No, — not
“absolutely so; — a man generally chuses
“the woman who most suits his taste at
“that time, provided her fortune and fa-
“mily be equally agreeable; — but you
“are not to imagine that the conjugal
“hoop, like an enchanted circle, must
“never be leap’d over till the spell is
“ended, which, you know, lasts as long
“as life?”

Wife. “And must not then the same
“latitude be allow’d to the women?”

Philander. “No, — there are very
“good reasons to be given for the con-
“trary: — but all this is idle; — since
“we are upon this topic, let us discuss it
“like rational creatures; — if we ex-
“amine our own hearts, and confess the
“truth, I believe it will be found that
“my conduct and your discontent pro-
“ceed from one and the same source, and
“are widely different from what the world
“generally ascribes to either: — in fine,
“madam, it is pride, — mere pride.”

‘ alone, that makes me guilty and you
‘ unhappy.’

Wife. ‘ Pride; — as how?’

Philander. ‘ I will presently convince
‘ you, — the pride of being thought to
‘ be well with a woman that half the
‘ town runs madding after, makes me
‘ fond of appearing in all public places
‘ with Belinda; — and it is the pride
‘ of engrossing me wholly to yourself
‘ that will not suffer you to be easy in
‘ seeing another woman prefer’d before
‘ you.’

Wife. ‘ Suppose this to be the case,
‘ which I am, however, far from grant-
‘ ing, mine would certainly be the most
‘ justifiable pride.’

Philander. ‘ Not at all; — pride is
‘ one of the very worst ingredients in
‘ the composition of a wife.’

Wife. ‘ And falshood in that of a
‘ husband.’

Philander. ‘ If you accuse me of
‘ falshood, you are, without exception,
‘ positively one of the most ungenerous
‘ women in the world; — no man could
‘ deal

‘deal more sincerely with a wife than I
‘have just now done with you; and I
‘think you ought to value me for it, and
‘console yourself with the assurance that
‘Belinda will grow stale to me the mo-
‘ment I find she becomes so to the town,
‘— which, to let you into a secret, I
‘believe will be very soon.’

Wife. ‘I am very much of your
‘opinion in that point; — but then the
‘ground she loses in your heart, will
‘perhaps be taken up by another, so that
‘my misfortune will receive little abate-
‘ment by the change of persons.’

Philander. ‘As to that, madam, there’s
‘no answering for future events; — but
‘whatever happens of this kind, you will
‘always find it the wisest way to be easy;
‘— so, madam, farewell, — I shan’t dine
‘at home to-day.’

With these words he went away, it is
possible to Belinda, or some other engage-
ment of the same nature, which I had no
curiosity to pry into; — his wife seem’d
more agitated after he was gone, than she
had made shew of when he was present;
but having sat for some minutes in a
musing posture, at length rous’d from it
and spoke thus to herself:

Wife. ‘ He says true, indeed, — patience is my only remedy ; — I may cry and fret myself till I grow so ugly that people will think I deserve the slights he treats me with, and the best I could expect would be the pity of my acquaintance : — Oh! how contemptible a thing is pity ! — How mean does the wretch appear who stands in need of it ! — I cannot bear the thought ! — No, — the world shall never know how miserable I am ; — I will tell every body that I discovered the flirt was in love with my husband, and that I put him upon pretending to admire her, on purpose to make her more ridiculous.

The thoughts of this stratagem seem’d to put her into great spirits ; — I could perceive her eyes sparkled with the innate satisfaction of her mind, and a dawn of cheerfulness diffus’d itself through all her features. — After a short pause she went on with her soliloquy.

Wife. ‘ It shall be so ; — her vain coquette airs will give a sanction to what I say, and my speaking of my husband with the utmost tenderness prevent every one from imagining I find myself treated by him with any cold-

* coldness or neglect. — Oh, Philander,
* for my own sake I must conceal your
* faults; — it is a provoking circum-
* stance, however, but I hope I shall have
* resolution enough to overcome it,, and
* to follow mr. Dryden's advice.'

“ Secrets of marriage should be sacred
“ held,
“ Their sweets and bitter by the wife
“ conceal'd;
“ Errors of one reflect on t'other still,
“ And when divulg'd proclaim we've
“ chosen ill.”

Having now fully satisfied my curiosity,
I left this lady to pursue her meditations,
and retir'd to my apartment, in order to
indulge my own; which, I must confess,
afforded me no very pleasing ideas, as I
was convinced, by what I had seen and
heard, that neither the husband or the
wife, or the favourite mistress, had any
thing in their characters that could be at
all interesting to a person of my way of
thinking.



C H A P. V.

Consists chiefly of some reflections of the Author's own on false Taste, — the mistaken road in the pursuit of Fame, and the folly of an ill-directed emulation; to which are added, a few faint sketches taken from the most amiable originals in modern life, and exhibited in the hope of seeing them finish'd by a more able pencil for the improvement of the public.

THE celebrated Monsieur De Buffy tells us, that when we say a man has a fine or true Taste, no more is meant by those words, than that he has a sound judgment, — a clear head, and a nicely distinguishing capacity in judging of what is really worthy and becoming; and what is not so, whether it be in the choice of his amusements, his equipage, his apparel, the furniture of his house, the covering of his table, or whatever else depends on the direction of the will and fancy.

Now, as every thing is best shewn by its opposite, if the definition given us by the French

French author of the true Taste be just, as I believe most people will allow it is, to think and act contrary to what he describes, is what we call false Taste ; but, in my opinion, to think and do always what is wrong, and at the same time imagine that all we think and do is right, is not of itself sufficient to take in the meaning of the phrase in its full extent ; — there must also be added an affectation of being singular, — over curious, — over delicate, — over elegant, — somewhat above the common level of mankind : — in fine, the man of a false Taste must not be a fool of Heaven's making but his own.

The late witty Earl of Rochester has presented us with a very picturesque character of the man of false Taste, in the following most excellent and pathetic lines :

- He was a fool thro' choice, not want
• of wit ;
- His foppery, without the help of
• sense,
- Could ne'er have risen to such an
• excellence :
- Nature's as lame in making a true
• fop
- As a philosopher : the very top
• And

- And dignity of folly, we attain
- By studious search, and labour of the
 ' brain ;
- By observation, council, and deep
 ' thought ;
- God never made a coxcomb worth a
 ' groat :
- We owe that name to industry and
 ' arts ;
- An eminent fool must be a Man of
 ' parts.

A person may be endow'd with great talents, yet, through a false Taste in the manner of displaying them, be render'd ridiculous instead of respectable, and while he aims at attracting universal admiration, become the object of universal contempt..

Hippias is profoundly learned; — is well skill'd in the most useful sciences, and endow'd both by nature and education with every requisite to render him a worthy and beneficial member of society; yet, by some unaccountable oddities of manners and behaviour, he makes himself hated where he might be loved, — despis'd where he might be respected, — and a mere cypher in a world where he might be a figure of the greatest consequence..

He

He is not at all dissatisfied that every one knows and speaks of him as a man possess'd of a very opulent fortune, yet affects to look down with scorn on all the pleasures, and even innocent amusements it might afford him ; and to such an excess does he carry this humour, that whatever is beyond the necessities of nature he treats as luxury and epicurism, vainly imagining that the wearing of a threadbare coat, and a wig that the head it covers scarce remembers ever to have had a curl, or the dining on a cut of coarse boiled beef from a threepeny ordinary, entitles him to the character of a philosopher.

But this ostentatious humility, as I think it may be justly call'd, is not the most unpardonable error into which Hippias is led by his false Taste ; — this serves only to make him ridiculous ; — but there is another which makes him hateful.

The ambition he has of being revered as a stoic, renders him deaf to the dictates of humanity, and wholly insensible of all social feeling for his fellow creatures ; — he partakes not in the joys or griefs of even those he calls his friends, nor would
lif

lift a finger, move a step, or speak a syllable, either to promote the one or dissipate the other; — the most distressful circumstance has not the power to touch his heart, and if any one knows him little enough to employ his assistance or advice in the extremest exigence, he replies, with a solemn and magisterial air, — that he can say nothing to their complaints; that pity is a passion; and that, by the force of his reason, he has divested himself of all passions of what kind soever.

Thus does Hippias, by indulging one unhappy propensity, forfeit all the love and esteem the qualities he is possess'd of would otherwise attract; — the manner in which he is now look'd upon gives me room to suspect, that whenever he makes his exit from this world he will have an epitaph somewhat like what I read on a tomb-stone in a country church-yard :

‘ Here *****, stretch'd at his full
 ‘ length is laid,
 ‘ Who living, no one lov'd, nor
 ‘ mourn'd when dead.’

Numberless are the instances might be given to prove the best capacities may be, and frequently are, perverted by false Taste and misapplication;—as one of our most

most eminent authors tells us, — the love of Fame is the universal passion, — it is imprinted, in a more or less degree, on every human heart ; — those who have great talents are apt to think they can never render themselves sufficiently conspicuous ; and those of weaker intellects, yet possess'd of the same vanity, are sometimes so infatuated, as rather than not to make a noise in the world, to do things which may incur a lampoon, since they cannot deserve a panegyric.

A private life, or as they term it, a life of obscurity, is to some people the severest misfortune they can labour under ; — they will tell you, that they may as well be out of the world as of no consequence in it ; — and few there are who will take the poet's word for a contrary passion.

- ' Th' unknown, untalk'd of man, is
 ' only blest ;
- ' No anxious doubts his peaceful breast
 ' annoy,
- ' From praise and censure equally re-
 ' mote ;
- ' Nor hopes, nor fears, his happiness
 ' destroys,
- ' But safe within himself, himself en-
 ' joys.'

It is more than barely possible, that some of my witty readers will cry out, — that I have lash'd myself in this remark, and if I were not as fond of being talk'd of as any body else, I should never have presented them with this work ; — but I would have these cavillers think a little before they pass such a judgment on me ; — however, for fear they should not give themselves the trouble of doing so, as the present age does not seem to care much for thinking, shall give them a very explicit, though short answer :

“ If I had exhibited these lucubrations
“ with any view of rendering myself
“ popular, I should certainly have pluck'd
“ off my Belt of Invisibility as soon as it
“ had furnish'd me with matter for their
“ entertainment, and appear'd in statu
“ quo, with a long fawning preface in
“ my hand, humbly imploring the ap-
“ probation of the public on my labours ;
“ but as I have resolv'd to remain in
“ an impenetrable concealment, they
“ must do me the justice to allow that I
“ have the honour to be of the same
“ opinion with the author I just now
“ quoted.”

This

This is all I have to say, — and enough too, I think, to clear me from any imputation of the kind I have mention'd ;— so shall now go on with such observations as at present occur on some few of the many branches which sprout forth from that great root of wrong acting, commonly call'd false Taste.'

There are people, who, having no peculiarities of their own, affect to imitate those they may see in others, especially if the person they copy after be of a superior rank, or has the reputation of a wit.

These may properly enough be call'd second-hand fools ; for they generally take up the follies just when they are left off by the persons they would be thought exactly to resemble ; — according to a vulgar adage, — ' The fool will sometimes peep out of the wisest man.' — The least failing in a person of a distinguish'd character is presently adopted by his inferiors 'till it becomes a fashion.

How justly, therefore, though not the most elegantly, does Michael Drayton express himself when speaking on this subject ; — it is a long time ago since I read
the

the old gentleman ; but, as near as I can remember, his words are as follow :

- ‘ The great, ’tis sure, should first them-
‘ selves amend ;
- ‘ For follies of all kinds will still
‘ descend :
- ‘ What palaces begin, the cottage apes,
- ‘ And no degree of men th’ infection
‘ escapes.’

Emulation, however, when well directed, is one of the most noble propensities of the mind ; — nothing can be more truly laudable than an endeavour to square our actions by a praiseworthy model ; but I am sorry to say that this is not so often the case as every good man would wish it were.

There are some people so unhappy, as to take for a pattern all the bad they can find, and neglect all the good ; — and this, too, without design or any untoward inclination, but through mere carelessness ; and provided they do something such a one or such a one does, give not themselves the trouble to examine whether what they imitate be a beauty or a blemish ; or, indeed, whether it be either, or only a matter of indifference, and altogether unworthy of regard.

And

And now I am upon this head, I cannot forbear relating an example of the sort I last mentioned; which, though it happen'd some years ago, and is extremely trifling in itself, may serve to shew how little care people sometimes take in their choice of an object for imitation.

A young gentleman of my acquaintance, and who pass'd in the world for a very pretty fellow, either was, or affected to be, because it was the mode, a prodigious admirer of the late deservedly famous sir Isaac Newton; — he had the honour of being known to that truly great man, frequently visited him, and had the opportunity of hearing many things from him, which doubtless were well worthy of being treasured in his memory; — yet I could never find he took particular notice of any thing but this I am now going to repeat.

Sir Isaac had him at his table one day, and happen'd casually to say, that he thought nothing sweeter than a bacon bone; — my friend immediately catch'd up the word, and from that moment made it his own, and on all occasions quoted it; — if any one ask'd him to eat with them he would reply, — ‘ Yes, if you have
any

‘ any bacon ; for, as sir Isaac Newton
 ‘ says, there is nothing sweeter than a
 ‘ bacon bone.’ — In fine, he went to no
 place, — mingled in no conversation,
 without finding some means to introduce
 the sweetness of the bacon bone, and re-
 peated the above-mention’d expression so
 often, and so impertinently, that at last he
 became the jest of all his companions,
 who, in derision, call’d him by no other
 name than the bacon bone.

Ridiculous as this may appear, I can
 assure my reader, that the gentleman I
 have been speaking of does not stand
 alone, but has many parallels in my cata-
 logue of observations on a misguided imi-
 tation, as I could easily prove ; — but my
 humour has on a sudden chang’d its vein;
 and I begin to grow too serious to recite
 any farther instances of so ludicrous a na-
 ture.

Degenerate as we mortals are said to be,
 and to confess the truth, worse cannot be
 said of us than we, in fact, deserve ; yet
 even now, in this present equally corrupt
 and illiterate age, when no encourage-
 ment is given either to virtue or to wit,
 there are not wanting some few illustrious
 examples of both, whom even an endea-
 vour

your to copy after would be some merit in the attempter.

See where the noble Altamont stands, forth a shining patron of exalted virtue; — dignity in his countenance, — benevolence in his hand, — the strictest justice, honour, and social kindness in his heart; — near him you will always find the chaste and fair Euphemia, his illustrious consort, — a numerous and beautiful offspring, with joyous smiles play round their feet, — Juno and Hymen hover over their heads, and shower continual blessings on the happy pair.

From Altamont and Euphemia, — ye husbands, fathers, learn the duties due to those endearing names; and cease to imagine that to swerve from them is politeness.

Learn you, who languish in a widow'd bed, from Elismonda learn to support the melancholy of your situation as becomes you; — Elismonda, who, tho' as Lee expresses it, in all the full-grown pride of glorious beauty, disdains all overtures for a second marriage, — shuns pomp and ceremony, — nor haunts the court nor public walks, but in her closet ruminates what good is in her power to do, — who

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most deserves, and who stands most in need of her relief; and all those cares she once employ'd to please the best of husbands are now taken up with acts of piety and soft compassion.

Learn you, fair ramblers after show and hurry, — ye midnight gadders to masquerades and balls, from lovely Amadea learn, the timid modesty that best befits and best secures the honour of a virgin state; — she takes no pains to attract the eyes of the gaping multitude, and rather shuns than covets popular admiration; — she avoids being the first in any new fashion, and never runs into the extreme of it; — goes to no routes, assemblies, or masquerades; — seldom indulges herself even with a play or opera; and when she does, is always accompany'd by some grave relation, whose presence is a check on the impertinence of those whiffers who skip from box to box, saying the same thing to every fine woman they see there; — when she walks in the Park, she makes choice of those hours when the least company are there; and the only public place you are sure to find her in is at Church,

The example of Dorilaus is a noble reprimand to those who suffer themselves
to

to grow old in riots and debaucheries; — early he quitted the levities of youth, — and, as the silver Swan immerging from the stream, shakes off the drops that hang upon its wings; so Dorilaus but dipp'd into the follies of the times, — just tasted the licentious pleasures of the town, — then despised and threw them from him with abhorrence.

Temptations of every kind have since surrounded him, yet has he still remain'd unmov'd, — equally inflexible to the insinuations of luxury and to the bribes of corruption; — steady in virtuous principles, the evil ones at length grew weary of their fruitless labour, and now suffer him to enjoy a calm and undisturb'd repose, in the society of a few select friends, who join with him in commiserating the insatiation and stupidity of an abandon'd and self-ruin'd age.

If there were no cards nor dice in the world, Favonius would be look'd upon as an almost faultless being, and the voice of envy have nothing wherewith to cast a blemish on his name: — it cannot be denied, however, but that Favonius has wit, honour, generosity, affability, and an unaffected sweetness of disposition, — qualifications which would greatly com-

penate for his love of gaming, if it were not for two considerations, — which are these:

First, That by indulging this unhappy propensity, he lavishes too much of that precious time which might be employ'd in the defence of the liberties of his country, and for the benefit of a commonwealth which stands in the utmost need of so able a friend.

Secondly, That his high character in the world, join'd to an almost general depravity of manners, makes many people ready, and even proud to follow his example in this, the sole error of which he can be accused, while they neglect the least endeavour to imitate any one of the numerous virtues he is master of.

Blush, ye pretended patriots, who wrote and loudly bawl'd for liberty; — who inveigh'd against corruption, only to enhance the market of corruption, and sell your consciences at a dearer rate: — blush, I say, at the awful Camillus! — Camillus, who so long and so strenuously maintain'd the glorious cause he had undertook, 'till deserted, and left almost alone, prudence obliged him to retire, and employ those cares the public were unworthy

worthy of, in private benefits on his tenants and dependants.

There are many others of both sexes still living, whose characters would reflect honour on the imitators; and some who, though the world has been so unfortunate as to lose, have left behind them such monuments of their virtues as can never be forgotten; — their memory strikes a damp on guilt, and will eternally be venerated by all the wise and good.

They are now removed from the vices and follies of an age they had not power to reclaim; but, as the divine muse which directed the pen of Herbert truly says,

‘ In spite of death, the actions of the just,
Will still smell sweet, and blossom in
the dust.’

But this is a theme which, tho’ perhaps little affecting to the greatest part of my readers, may yet be too melancholy to some others, as well as to myself, I shall therefore dwell no longer upon it, but return to a subject more suitable to the present disposition of the times, which I am not so ignorant as not to know an author ought always to consult, if he re-

guards either his own reputation or the interest of his Bookseller.

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## CHAP. VI.

*Gives a succinct relation of two pretty extraordinary adventures that presented themselves to the Author in a morning ramble ; — which accounts, if they are not found altogether so improving as some few readers might desire, have full as good a plea to the approbation of the town in general, — that of being very diverting.*

**A** Clear and undisturb'd sky, illuminated with a smiling sun, and perfumed with a thousand odours from the new budding spring, invited me to take the air in Hyde-Park ; — I girded my Invisible Belt about me, for the reasons I have already mention'd in a preceding chapter, and also put my Tablets in my pocket, though I had not the least expectation of meeting with any thing in that place which should give me occasion to make use of them.

The

The sweet solemnity of this solitude afforded me infinitely more pleasure than ever I had found in a crowded Mall; — it inspired me with the most delightful ideas, which indulging, I wander'd for I believe near two hours without meeting with any one object to interrupt my contemplations.

How much longer I might have continued in this agreeable resvery I know not; for I was rous'd from it by the sudden appearance of a gentleman at some distance from me, but who was advancing directly towards the path where I was: — on his approach I stepp'd a little on one side, to prevent his running against me; — he walk'd backwards and forwards with some emotion, — look'd often on his watch, and discover'd many signs of the utmost impatience.

By the cockade in his hat, and some other infallible symptoms I saw about him, I doubted not of his being a military gentleman, and imagin'd that some dispute of honour was that morning to be decided by the point of the sword; but I was soon convinced of my mistake, and that the officer at that time had more of Cupid than of Mars in his head.



I had not been many minutes before a coach came up and stopp'd very near to the place where I stood; — there were three women in it, one of whom, and much the richest dress'd, I presently knew to be the celebrated Lipathea; — the others, as I afterwards found, were her Woman and Nurse; — this, it seems, being the first time of her coming abroad since her bringing into the world a son and heir, to the great joy of that honourable family, — as the News-writers express it.

On sight of the coach the young officer advanced briskly towards it, — Lipathea saw him at the same time, and thrusting out her head, and half her body, with her accusom'd loud laugh, cry'd to him:

*Lipathea.* ‘ So, — my dear punctual Billy.’

*Officer.* ‘ More punctual, indeed, than your ladyship; for I have been here this half hour.’

*Lipathea.* ‘ Well, well, — come in, — you know I shall recompence your attendance,’

With

With these words the door was immediately open'd, — the two women came out and the officer jump'd in, — after which the coachman was order'd to drive as slow as he could to the Walnut-tree Walk, and so round to the Ha-ha Wall and back to the same place again.

I had no opportunity to follow them, so was oblig'd to content myself with hearing the discourse that pass'd between the two women who were left behind, — to this end I kept as close to them as I could, with my Tablets in my hand; but the subjects they talk'd on at first were so trifling, that I did not think it worth while to spread them for the impression of their words, 'till all at once the Nurse, lifting up her hands and eyes, burst into this exclamation:

*Nurse.* ' Well, — these great folks, ' they may do any thing! but I wonder, ' her ladyship is not afraid of being met ' by some one who might tell her husband! ' band!

*Woman.* ' If such a thing should happen, and he offer to resent it, she ' would either laugh or fight him out ' of it.

*Nurse.* 'What, do they fight!'

*Woman.* 'Fight, — aye, mrs. Nurse, and scratch too; but my lady always gets the better.'

*Nurse.* 'That is likely enough, truly, if they go to handy-cuffs; for she is a good deal the most robust of the two.'

*Woman.* 'Aye, some people are apt to say they should change sex. — But how can you be surpriz'd at her making this excursion? — Do not you remember that when she had lain-in but ten days, Sam, her favourite footman, conducted the Captain up the back-stairs into her bed-chamber, in the very moment her husband was going into his chariot to take the air after a fit of the gout.'

*Nurse.* 'Indeed I shall never forget it; — I was quite confounded: — Nurse Dandle too was call'd to shew young master to him, — just as if he had been his father.'

*Woman.* 'Well, she has fine children, and I believe does not care a pin's point who the world thinks begot them.'

*Nurse.*

*Nurse.* , That's a plain case, or she  
' would never behave as she does.'

*Woman.* ' It is not our business, how-  
' ever to find fault ; for to do her justice,  
' as covetous as she is in other things,  
' she is liberal enough to those who are  
' any way assisting to her pleasures.'

*Nurse.* ' I believe so ; for after the  
' Captain was gone that day she put a  
' broad-piece into my hand, and said he  
' had left it for me. — But hearken, —  
' I was told for a great secret, that she  
' had an intrigue with my lord Triffii  
' Traffii, — and that he made her the  
' finest presents.'

*Woman.* ' They need not have told it  
' you for a secret, — all the town knows  
' it, and he is as proud as she is careless  
' of their doing so.'

*Nurse.* ' How does that matter stand  
' at present then ?— Has he forsaken her,  
' or she him ?'

*Woman.* ' Neither, I can assure you ;  
' — they are as fond of each other as  
' ever when they are together ; but he  
' has lately got into a great employment  
L 6 which

‘ which takes up his time very much,  
 ‘ and he cannot be so often with her as  
 ‘ usual, — so that she would be quite  
 ‘ mop’d for want of amusement if the  
 ‘ Captain were not in the way.’

*Nurse.* ‘ Bless me! how times are  
 ‘ chang’d † — When I was a young wo-  
 ‘ man there were no such doings; — I  
 ‘ have serv’d in many a great family, and  
 ‘ nurs’d many a fine lady, but never saw  
 ‘ formerly what I have lately seen in this,  
 ‘ and some other places, which shall be  
 ‘ nameless.’

*Woman.* ‘ I have heard, indeed, that  
 ‘ people of the last age were very diffe-  
 ‘ rent from what they are now; but we  
 ‘ cannot live by the past but by the pre-  
 ‘ sent, and I would not have you stand in  
 ‘ your own light, mrs. Nurse; — my lady  
 ‘ talks of recommending you to a certain  
 ‘ great person, who will shortly have oc-  
 ‘ casion for one of your profession; but  
 ‘ if you seem to disapprove of these  
 ‘ things you will spoil all.’

*Nurse.* ‘ Nay, for that matter, I, —  
 ‘ I can hold my tongue when I find it is  
 ‘ for my interest; — I am no babbler, —  
 ‘ I will say that for myself; — but  
 ‘ thoughts, you know, are free.’

*This*

This prating woman, who would fain be thought no babbler, now began to run into a long detail of all the particulars she knew, or could remember, that had happen'd in the several families where she had been ; but the matters she related being wholly insignificant, and unworthy of record, I shut up my Tablets and gave no farther ear to what she said.

I quitted not the place, however, 'till the lovers return'd from the tour they had been making ; — the coach stopp'd, and the Captain was set down near the end of the same path where he had been taken up, and Lipathea beckon'd her two attendants to come in, who by this time, I found, were heartily weary of their promenade.

The well-known character of Lipathea, one would think, should have hinder'd me from being much surpris'd at any thing she did ; yet could I not be an eye-witness of the glaring affront she now put upon her husband, and the modesty of her sex, without being seiz'd with a consternation impossible to be express'd.

My meditations on this adventure had perhaps lasted 'till I came home, if they had

had not been interrupted by another which fell in my way, and afforded me, in its consequences, more matter for diversion than the former.

Beauty, or what is more than beauty, the power of attraction, is not confin'd to persons of a high station, — nature can exert herself as much in the cottage as the palace, and we sometimes find more real graces under a plain homely coif than unde a fine gauze cap ornamented with jewels, — as the little incident I am about to rehearse will abundantly evince.

As I was passing through St. James's-Park, I met a young woman with a porringer in her hand, sat upon a water-plate, and neatly cover'd with a large earthen saucer; — she advanced with slow and cautious steps, lest she should spill any part of what she had brought; when she drew near to the Parade, a tall lusty Grenadier stepp'd forth from among his comrades and receiv'd the mess from her, as also a pewter spoon as bright as silver, which she took out of her pocket and presented to him at the same time.

Tho' every thing about her was clean, even to a nicety, yet, as the reader may easily suppose extremely mean; — she  
had.

had a face, however, that stood in need of no advantages from dress to set it off; — never had I seen a finer pair of eyes, more regular features, or a more soft and delicate complexion; — and to crown all the rest of her perfections, there appear'd not only in her countenance, but in every little motion and gesture, that which, in my opinion, is the very soul of loveliness, a most perfect innocence and simplicity.

I was so much struck at the sight of her, that I could not forbear stopping in order to consider her beauty with more attention, while she stood waiting till the Grenadier, who I found was her husband, had done eating.

I was not, however, the only admirer whom her charms that morning had attracted, — a certain officer of distinction in the army, who happen'd to be walking on the Parade with another gentleman, having beheld her at some distance, quitted his companion and came to the Grenadier, accosting him in these terms:—

*Officer.* • So, Grenadier, — you are  
• taking your morning's refreshment; —  
• Is this pretty damsel your wife ?”

Gren-



*Grenadier.* ‘ Yes, please your honour.’

*Officer.* ‘ She seems very young, you  
‘ can’t have been married long.’

*Grenadier.* ‘ About three months,  
‘ please your honour.’

*Officer.* ‘ I hope you use her well;  
‘ — I dare say she deserves it.’

*Grenadier.* ‘ I think she has no rea-  
‘ son to complain, sir; — Have you Peg-  
‘ gy?’

*Wife.* ‘ No, indeed.’

*Officer.* ‘ I am glad of it; — I would  
‘ always have the women used well.

He said no more, but turned upon his heel and walk’d away with a careless air, as if nothing farther than what he had made shew of were in his head; but I perceiv’d he remov’d no farther than the end of the Canal, and kept an observant eye on those he had left behind.

The Grenadier having finish’d his little repast, mingled with some soldiers who were on the Parade, and his wife trip’d  
out

out of the Park with much more haste than she had come into it ; — the officer, who had never lost sight of her, follow'd, tho' for a while at some distance, and I kept very near him, resolving to see what it was he aim'd at, and what would be the issue of his designs, in case he had any of the nature I suspected.

She went through the Treasury, and when he saw she had enter'd there mended his pace, and coming up with her under the arch'd passage gave her a little slap on the shoulder ; — she started and turn'd back, but on seeing him dropp'd a low curtsey, while he spoke thus :

*Officer.* ' Well overtaken, my pretty lass ; — I wanted to speak with you ; — I fancy I have seen you some where or other ; — Pray what country-woman are you ?'

*Wife.* ' I was born in Lancashire, — so please your honour.'

*Officer.* ' I thought so ; for I have heard say all the Lancashire girls are very handsome, — And pray what brought you to London ?'

*Wife.*

*Wife.* ‘ The hopes of getting into a  
‘ good service, please your honour ; but  
‘ not hearing of one presently, and hap-  
‘ pening to get acquainted with my hus-  
‘ band in the mean time, I chang’d my  
‘ condition.’

*Officer.* ‘ You did well ; — there is  
‘ nothing like being your own mistress ;  
‘ — but you country folks are generally  
‘ afraid of a red coat ; — How came you  
‘ to venture on a soldier ?’

*Wife.* ‘ I don’t know, sir, — it was  
‘ my fate, I think.’

*Officer.* ‘ Well here is something to  
‘ encourage you to love the army.’

With these words he drew a six-and-  
thirty piece of gold out of his pocket and  
made an offer of putting it into her hand ;  
but she drew back, either ashamed or un-  
willing to accept it, and cry’d.

*Wife.* ‘ Oh, sir, I have heard say that  
‘ women should never take money from  
‘ the men.’

*Officer.* ‘ That is from your mean dirty fellows ; but it is ill-manners to refuse any thing given you by your superiors.’

He now took hold of her hand, and a second effort obliging her to receive his present, she look’d on it, turn’d it two or three times, and then said,

*Wife.* ‘ Bless me, — what must I do with this great piece of money ?’

*Officer.* ‘ Oh you will find a use for it ; — that pretty face and person of yours require a thousand things that the Grenadier’s pay will not enable him to purchase for you : — and now I think on it, — ’tis pity he should continue in that low station ; — I have it in my power to raise him, and I will do it, — he shall have a Halbert forthwith ; — but I must talk to you a little first upon that score. — Where do you live ? — I will come and see you.’

*Wife.* ‘ Oh, dear sir, — we have not an habitation fit for your honour to come into.’

*Officer.* ‘ No matter for that, — I am not proud, and never scruple to go

‘ to any place, how mean soever it be,  
 ‘ where I can either do a pleasure to my-  
 ‘ self or a service to my friends ; — there-  
 ‘ fore no excuses.’

*Wife.* ‘ Your honour is very good ;  
 ‘ — but I do not know how to tell you,  
 ‘ for there is no sign near us ; — but we  
 ‘ lodge up one pair of stairs at a button-  
 ‘ maker’s, the next door but one to a  
 ‘ chandler’s shop, in a little alley that  
 ‘ turns out of King-street by a green-stall,  
 ‘ and is no thoroughfare.’

*Officer.* ‘ I shall never find it by this  
 ‘ direction, — you shall shew me where it  
 ‘ is now ?’

*Wife.* ‘ Lord, sir, what will the people  
 ‘ in the street say, to see me go cheek-by-  
 ‘ jole with such a fine gentleman as your  
 ‘ honour ?’

*Officer.* ‘ Well then you shall walk  
 ‘ before and I will follow you.’

*Wife.* ‘ But, sir, my room is all dirty,  
 ‘ — I was just going home to clean it, —  
 ‘ now I have carry’d my husband his  
 ‘ breakfast.’

*Officer.*

*Officer.* ' I shall not go in, nor visit  
' you 'till after dark, to hinder, as you  
' say, the neighbours from staring at me ;  
' — I will come this evening about nine  
' or ten o'clock ; — your husband is to  
' be upon duty, but do you take care  
' not to be out of the way ; for it is ab-  
' solutely necessary I should have some  
' discourse with you before I do any thing  
' for him ?'

*Wife,* ' Lord, sir, what business can  
' your honour have with me that he must  
' not know.'

*Officer.* , You may tell him after-  
' wards, if you will ; — but I won't de-  
' tain you any longer, — go home and de-  
' light yourself with the assurance I give  
' you that your husband shall be made a  
' Serjeant to-morrow, and that I shall  
' use all my interest for his rising still  
' higher ; — so that he may come to be  
' a Captain at last.'

*Wife.* ' A Captain ! — oh lae ! — I  
' should never have thought of such a  
' thing.'

*Officer.* ' It all depends upon yourself,  
' and what I have to communicate to  
' you,

‘ you ; — so be sure to be at home and  
‘ alone when I come.

*Wife.* ‘ Yes, please your honour, I  
‘ I would not for all the world be so rude  
‘ as to disappoint you ; — though I am  
‘ ashamed you should come into such a  
‘ poor habitation as mine.’

*Officer.* ‘ Never mind that, my pretty  
‘ one, I shall look on nothing in the place  
‘ but yourself.’

While he was speaking this he cast his eyes about, and finding there was nobody in sight, gave her an affectionate kiss upon the cheek, after which she made a low curtsy and turn’d away to go home, blushing all the way she went like the Sun through a gentle shower in an April morning ; — he follow’d, as he said he would, ’till he had seen her enter into her little dwelling ; nor left the place ’till he had taken sufficient notice of every thing, to be able to remember and know it again.

I was now under a most sensible concern for this poor young creature, — thus likely to be betray’d, not by any inclination to ill, but merely through the fear of offending a person above her, — quite ignorant

ignorant of the snares of the world, and untaught how to resist temptation; she was, alas, just ready to fall into a real fault, by an endeavour to avoid an imaginary one, — as Mr. Waller said, tho' on a different occasion,

- ‘ Innocence and youth oft makes,
- ‘ In artless virgins such mistakes.’

Tho' I had not the least doubt but that the young wife of the Grenadier would become a prey to the vicious inclination of her seducer, yet I had the curiosity to see in what manner she would behave on the full discovery of his designs upon her.

Accordingly I went about nine o'clock to the little alley, and posted myself on a bench at a door just opposite to the dwelling of the Grenadier, resolved to go in with the Officer when he should come.

I had not waited above half an hour before he appear'd; — he was muffled up in his cloak; but by the help of a small winking light from an adjacent shop, I easily knew him; — he had taken too much notice of the house to be mistaken in it, and enter'd directly, the door being left open, as I suppose, for that purpose;  
— I fol-



—I follow'd close behind him, but never had my Invisibiltyship been in so much danger as it was now brought into by this adventure.

The Grenadier, it seems, having been inform'd by his wife of every thing that had pass'd between her and the Officer, and more zealous in the defence of his honour, than perhaps some in a much higher station would have been, had prevail'd, for some pots of beer, on a brother Grenadier to do duty for him that night, so return'd home before the hour appointed for his rival's approach, and having arm'd himself with a good oaken cudgel, stood on the middle of the stairs ready to give a proper reception to that invader of his rights.

My leader had not advanced above five or six steps of the stairs, when he receiv'd a violent blow on the head, which, together with the surprize it gave him, made him reel back and like to fall on poor Invisibile; but I hastily and prudently withdrew to the middle of the entry, and stood aloof to hear, at a more safe distance, what would be the end of this affair.

The

The Grenadier pursued his strokes, and the Officer, being in no condition to defend himself in that disadvantageous posture, thought it best to make his escape; but not having been accusom'd to such steep winding stairs, fell down to the bottom; — his antagonist, though better acquainted with the passage, in attempting to follow him had the same fate, but being uppermost soon recover'd himself, and catching hold of the Officer by the collar as he was endeavouring to rise, forced him on his knees, and continued buffeting him on the head and face 'till he was cover'd all over with the blood that gush'd from his nose and mouth, as I afterwards perceiv'd.

The Officer made several efforts to draw his sword, and at length did so; but the other finding what he was about, immediately seiz'd it by the hilt, wrested it from him, snapp'd it in sunder with his foot, and threw it over his head. —  
' Rascal, will you murder me! cry'd the  
' Officer.' — ' No, on, reply'd the Gre-  
' nadier, I will only cool your courage,  
' and make you remember running after  
' other men's wives.' — Dog, — do you  
' know who I am, demanded he?' —  
' I only know you for a villain, said the  
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‘ other, that would debauch my wife,  
 ‘ and as such I’ll use you. — ‘ Sirrah,  
 ‘ return’d the Officer, I will make you  
 ‘ pay dearly for this insolence ; — you  
 ‘ know well enough that I am \*\*\*\*\*,  
 ‘ — you lye, rejoin’d the other, and de-  
 ‘ serve to be hang’d for taking such a  
 ‘ gentleman’s name in your mouth ; —  
 ‘ \*\*\*\*\* would scorn to sneak into such  
 ‘ a poor hut as this to seduce any man’s  
 ‘ wife.’

The Grenadier’s hands were not idle all  
 this time ; but the Officer having at  
 length got upon his feet, they continued  
 wrestling together for some minutes, in  
 which combat the furious husband had  
 much the better, which put me in mind  
 of what Mr. Row says in his excellent  
 tragedy of *Jane Shore* :

‘ In spite of birth and dignity, a man  
 ‘ Oppos’d against a man, is but a man.’

The Officer now finding himself quite  
 disabled, and being still under the gripe  
 of his unrelenting enemy, call’d vehe-  
 mently out for help ; on which several of  
 the neighbours ran in with lighted candles  
 in their hands, and the entry was pre-  
 sently full of men, women and children ;  
 — but never was such a spectacle as this de-

demolish'd Beau. — ' Bless me ! what is  
' the matter, cry'd one ?' — ' What is  
' the matter ?' — ' Ask no questions, —  
' here is half a crown for any one that  
' will get me a chair immediately, said  
' he ;' and the word was scarce out of his  
mouth before a cobbler ran with all the  
speed he could to do as he desir'd.

The Grenadier now affected the utmost  
surprize, and said, — ' All the world  
' should never have made me believe it  
' was your honour ; — I protest I took  
' you for a rogue that wanted to come  
' to bed to my wife while I was abroad,  
' and thought I could not use such a one  
' too ill.' — The women, on hearing this,  
gues'd how the business was, and look'd  
at one another and grinn'd ; — one of  
them, however, was so charitable as to  
fetch a wooden bowl of water and a piece  
of clean rag to cleanse the blood from off  
his face and garments ; — he made use  
of what she brought, but gave no other  
answer to what the Grenadier had said  
than a look full of resentment and con-  
fusion.

A chair being brought, he catch'd up  
his hat and wig, which had fallen off in  
the scuffle, went into it, leaving behind him  
sufficient matter to employ the conversa-

tion of the whole alley for a long time ;—  
on hearing afterwards the whole truth of  
the affair from the Grenadier and his wife,  
every one applauded the conduct of them  
both, and laugh'd heartily at the disap-  
pointment and correction of the lascivious  
Officer.

For my own part, after I got home,  
the satisfaction of finding myself safe  
from the dangers into which my curiosity  
had brought me, was succeeded by some  
considerations on the passages I had been  
witness of, and I could not help being  
fill'd with the utmost astonishment, that  
persons endow'd with a liberal education,  
and from whom much better things might  
be expected, should, for the sake of gra-  
tifying a foolish inclination, the fleeting  
pleasure of a moment, not only be guilty  
of the greatest injustice to others, but  
also of the most abject demeaning of  
themselves.



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C H A P. VII.

*Is calculated rather for admonition than entertainment, and therefore is likely to be but little relish'd; — especially as it may happen to give a pretty severe slap on the faces of some who think themselves too great or too wise for amendment.*

**H**OW vainly do we boast the light of Reason, when we refuse to submit either our wills or actions to the guidance of its direction, when through every stage of life we suffer some darling passion to gain dominion over us, and utterly extinguish that glorious lamp we seem so proud of, and would be thought so eminently to possess above the rest of the creation?

Prodigality is generally the vice of Youth, and Avarice of Age; but tho' both these propensities proceed from a wrong turn of mind, and are diametrically opposite to sound judgment, yet I think somewhat more may be said in excuse of the one than of the other.

stance of which kind I am now going to relate.

A gentleman, whom I shall distinguish by the name of Avario, is sprung from a very ancient family in the West of England, has a large estate, and might have been belov'd and respected by his neighbours, if the excessive parsimoniousness of his disposition did not make him do things which demean his rank, and even render him contemptible in the eyes both of his equals and inferiors.

He was married in his youth to a lady of birth and fortune ; but had no child by her for near twelve whole years, at the end of which time, however, she brought a son into the world, which one would imagine should have fill'd the father's heart with the highest satisfaction ; but instead of thanking Providence for sending him an heir of his own bowels for his estate, he only repined at the additional expence the new comer must necessarily occasion.

His lady was sensibly afflicted at the little notice he took of the young Clyamon, for so the son of this unworthy father was call'd ; but when she reproach'd him with his unkindness, he only gave her

her this churlish answer : — That he saw no cause for any great rejoicing ; for he supposed, as she had now began to teem, he should in a few years have more children than he should be able to maintain.

Clyamon, notwithstanding, grew a very fine boy ; but would have had little to boast of from education, if his uncle by the mother's side, who was exceeding rich and had no children, had not conceived a more than ordinary affection for him, and resolved to bestow on him all those advantages which were denied to him by the niggard disposition of his father.

He told Avario, that if he would trust him with his son he would breed him as his own, and take care that he should want for none of those accomplishments which constitute the truly fine gentleman, in case he were capable of receiving them ; ' which, added he, I do not at all doubt ' of, from the early promise of his childhood.'

This offer was too agreeable to both the parents not to be readily accepted ; — the father rejoiced at being eas'd of an expence he could not foresee without regret ; and the mother was highly pleas'd to think that her little darling would



self, entirely preserved him from running into any of those excesses which too many of his age are guilty of; — though nothing could be more gay and spiritous, yet every thing he said and did was govern'd by a certain decorum, without seeming to be so.

He could be chearful among the men of his acquaintance, without immorality or prophaneness; — courtly among the ladies, without flattery or insincerity; — respectful to his superiors, and maintain a proper distance to those below him, without pride or ill-nature: — in fine, his character and manners were such as made him highly esteem'd by all the wise and good, and beloved even by those who would not be at the pains to imitate him.

After a stay of about three years at the University he return'd to sir Arthur Frankwill's; for that kind uncle and patron would needs have him continue to look upon his house as his chief home, nor did Avario at all oppose this motion, tho' he was now extremely proud of his son, went often to see him, and would always make him be present at every public assembly or meeting in which he was himself a party.

It is certain, indeed, that never any young gentleman was more happy or more contented in his mind than Clyamon at the time I am speaking of; — he had but one wish beyond what he already possess'd, and that remain'd no longer ungratified than while he forbore to mention it.

He was as well acquainted, as books could make him, with most foreign parts; especially with those kingdoms and states which compose this quarter of the globe; but when he consider'd that the best description cannot but fall infinitely short of the prospect, he was very desirous of being an eye-witness of those things and places he had read of.

Sir Arthur highly approv'd his nephew's inclination to travel; — it seem'd laudable to him, as he had himself often thought it was the only thing wanting to complete his other accomplishments; and one day, as they were talking on that subject, 'My dear Clyamon, said he, 'the desire you have of seeing the world 'is truly praise-worthy, and I think you 'cannot better employ two or three of 'those years which I hope Heaven has 'allotted for you, than in visiting the se-  
veral

‘veral courts of Europe; — it will enlarge your ideas; and the difference of their manners and policies will, I doubt not, enable you to make such observations as may hereafter be of service to your country.

‘I think, pursued he, that there is no necessity for putting you under the care of any person by way of governor, — you are now arriv’d at years, and I flatter myself, at discretion enough to be trusted by yourself; — as to the rest, you may depend that I shall spare nothing to render the tour you make agreeable to you, and that whatever remittances you shall have occasion for, from time to time, shall be punctually sent to you on a letter of advice.’

This crown’d all the other favours Glyamon had receiv’d from his indulgent uncle; and, it is not to be doubted, drew from him the most grateful acknowledgments: — it was necessary, however, that Avario should be consulted; — the matter accordingly was propos’d to him, on which he testified that he was not void of natural affection, by the reluctance he express’d for exposing so deserving a son to the dangers of travelling; but the arguments urged by sir Arthur, and the  
entreaties.

entreaties of Clyamon, at length prevailed on him to consent.

Clyamon soon made it appear that it was not to gratify a vain unprofitable curiosity, but the laudable ambition of improving his mind, that had made him so desirous of going abroad;—the letters he wrote to his father and uncle, from France, Italy, Sweden, and several parts of Germany, would have been very well worth inserting in this work; but, to the misfortune of the public, I was not then in possession of my wonderful Tablets, and tho' I heard them read more than once, can remember little of the particulars they contain.

This worthy young gentleman had glean'd from every field he pass'd thro' whatever he found capable of increasing the treasures of his mind; and, in somewhat more than two years return'd to England, full fraught, tho' not burthen'd with understanding and an experience far above his years.

I might here entertain my reader with the joy he was receiv'd with by his father and uncle, the compliments made to him by the gentry in that part of the country, and acclamations of the lower sort of people.

people ; — but I have no time to waste in such minute particulars, and must proceed to more material circumstances.

Clyamon had no great relish for the country ; — he soon grew weary of its amusements ; — he lov'd company, and had been accustom'd to a good deal, both at Oxford as well as while he was on his travels, and on account of the great distance between the gentlemen's seats in that country, his uncle's love of retirement, and his father's parsimony, neither of their houses were much frequented : — in fine, he wanted to come to London, — he had never been three whole weeks together in it, and thought he ought to be better acquainted with what was done in the capital of the kingdom.

Sir Arthur was also willing he should be known in a place where the accomplishments he had given him might be render'd more conspicuous ; but as he had more than perform'd the part of an uncle, and fully discharg'd him of the promise he had made to Avario concerning his education, he thought it was now high time for that gentleman to take upon him the father, and make a settlement for his son sufficient to enable him to appear in the

the world according to the estate he was born to inherit.

This proposition was not altogether so pleasing to Avario as it ought to have been ; but as he could find nothing to alledge against the reasonableness of it, he only evaded complying with it at present, by some trifling excuse or other, 'till Clyamon, unable to conceal his discontent, sir Arthur press'd more strenuously in his favour than he had done before, and at length, tho' with much difficulty, drew from that niggard parent the scanty sum of fifty guineas.

This was a light loading for the purse of a young gentleman bred in the manner Clyamon had been, and could not be expected to hold out long in so expensive a town as London ; — Avario, however, accompany'd it with a promise of letting him have more as soon as he receiv'd money from his tenants, who he pretended had been tardy in their payments of late, and occasion'd his being very much out of cash.

Clyamon could not keep himself from being extremely shock'd at this treatment, from a father who had been at no expence for him since he was ten years old : —  
sir

Mr Arthur was no less chagrin'd, though he concealed it from his nephew, and putting a Bank Bill of fifty pounds into his hand, said to him, — ' My dear Clyamon, I would not have you be disconcerted, — you know your father's temper ; but the more he hoards, the more will be your own at his decease ; — in the mean time, be assured I will not forsake you, — I will continually urge him on your behalf, and also privately supply you whenever he is deficient ; — live therefore like yourself, and be entirely easy.'

These comfortable words, from a mouth on which he knew he might depend, made Clyamon set out chearfully for London ; but what happen'd to him after his arrival must be the subject of another chapter.





C H A P. VIII.

*Is a continuance of what the former but began; — whoever therefore is not pleased with the porch, had best not venture farther, lest he should meet with something yet more disagreeable within.*

**T**HO' Clyamon never had an opportunity of making much acquaintance in this metropolis, and now arriv'd here at a season in which great part of the nobility and gentry retire to their country seats, yet was he soon known, and his conversation courted by those of the best rank who still remained in town.

There were no Operas, indeed, no Plays, no Masquerades to entertain him; but the gardens of Ranelagh, Vaux-Hall, and Mary-le-Bon; or, to speak more properly, the gay company that frequent those places left him no want of any other amusement; — the love of pleasure can never continue ungratified in a town like this, and it is not to be wonder'd at if it sometimes got the better.



of all Clyamon's discretion; nor, if surrounded with temptations, that he could not always keep himself from giving way to passions which in youth, and a sprightly disposition, are so natural that they scarce deserve the name of faults.

It is not my business to detain the reader's attention with an account of his gallantries with the fair sex, if any of the particulars had come to my knowledge, which I freely confess they did not, — I shall only say that he had no amour which could call his honour in question, bring him into quarrels, or be productive of any other unhappy consequences.

The only mistake in conduct he had any great reason to repent of, he was led into more by the prevalence of example than his own inclination; — he had never been in the least tainted with that epidemic vice, the love of gaming; and rather wonder'd at the pleasure he saw it gave others than desir'd to be partaker of it himself; — yet did he inadvertently suffer himself one evening to engage in a party at that dangerous amusement, which he knew had prov'd so fatal to many of the most opulent fortunes, and utterly unsuitable to a person in his present circumstances.

The

The persons he play'd with were well experienced, and great proficient in their arts ; — they let him win at first some pieces, and this imaginary success luring him to go on, he became at length a loser about seventy pounds, — a trifling sum to a gentleman of his appearance, yet three times more than he, at that time, was master of.

He dissembled his chagrine as well as he was able, but confess'd he had not that sum about him, and would send it the next morning ; — on which they told him his honour was a sufficient stake for ten times as much as he had lost, and would fain have prevail'd with him to have play'd on ; but he now saw the folly he had been guilty of, so, pretending he had business, took leave of the company, carrying with him a humour very different from what he had brought, and from what he had ever been possess'd of in his whole life before.

Impossible is it to express, as he afterwards told me, how much he was disconcerted at this unlucky event ; — he knew it was expected he should promise to send the money the next morning, and by what means he should acquit himself of  
that

that promise, and redeem his honour, puzzled him to a degree that made him almost distracted.

He has often protested that he never closed his eyes in sleep during that whole night, but pass'd his restless hours in contriving how to extricate himself from the labyrinth into which he had so foolishly stray'd; — after much revolving in his mind, he at last bethought him of borrowing the sum he wanted of a young gentleman with whom he was extremely intimate, and had a good fortune.

Pursuant to this resolution he rose the next morning more early than he was accustomed, and went to his friend, who was not yet stirring; but on his saying he had business of consequence to impart to him, was easily admitted to his chamber: — he told him, in few words, what had happen'd, the vexatious situation he was in, and the necessity he was under of borrowing a small sum, 'till he could receive a remittance from the country; — to which the other reply'd :

‘ Upon my soul, dear Clyamon, I  
 ‘ should be glad to serve you on this oc-  
 ‘ casion; — but, faith, it is not in my  
 ‘ power at present; — it is not a week  
 ‘ ago

‘ ago since I lost five hundred pounds at  
‘ that damn’d Whist ; — and this, with  
‘ some other demands lately made upon  
‘ me, have quite drain’d me of all my  
‘ ready cash ; — but I will tell you what  
‘ I can do for you ; — I know a man  
‘ who has often supply’d me, and several  
‘ gentlemen of my acquaintance, when  
‘ they have had a bad run at play ; —  
‘ he has always money by him, and  
‘ will lend you what sum you please on  
‘ your advancing a premium ; — I will  
‘ rise this minute and go with you to  
‘ him.’

Clyamon was highly pleased at this offer, and while the other was dressing reflected within himself how his affairs stood, and that the little presents he had receiv’d from his father and uncle being now almost exhausted, he should soon have calls for more money than his gaming debt, thought it best, since he must borrow, to borrow as much as would supply his expences ’till his father should be prevail’d upon to make him a settlement, which he flatter’d himself would be in a short time.

He communicated his intentions to the gentleman, who approv’d it, and having  
got

got himself ready, they went together to old Grub, for so the usurer was call'd.

The wretch was just coming out of his house when they came to it ; — on seeing them he turn'd back and conducted them into a little dirty parlour ; but, as the discourse that pass'd between them was somewhat extraordinary, I thought it worth writing down, as Clyamon some time after repeated it to me word for word :

*Grub.* ‘ So, my young squire, — ’tis  
‘ a wonder to see you out of your bed be-  
‘ fore the sun has run three quarters of his  
‘ course at least ; — I suppose you want a  
‘ little of my assistance that brings you  
‘ abroad thus early ?’

*Gentleman.* ‘ No faith, Grub, not at  
‘ present ; — but I have a friend here that  
‘ does.’

*Grub.* ‘ Your friend is welcome, —  
‘ I will serve him if I can. — Pray, sir,  
‘ what can I do for you ?’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Sir, a present emergency  
‘ lays me under a necessity of raising two  
‘ hundred pounds immediately, — if you  
‘ have that sum by you, this gentleman  
‘ will inform you who I am, and that I  
‘ want

‘ want neither the power nor the will to  
‘ discharge any obligation I shall enter  
‘ into on that score.’

*Gentleman.* ‘ Ay, ay, Grub, — his  
‘ note is as good as the Bank of England,  
‘ — you need not fear your money, —  
‘ his name is \*\*\*\*, — he is an only son,  
‘ and heir to near two thousand pounds a  
‘ year.’

*Grub.* ‘ The gentleman has an honest  
‘ face, indeed.’

*Gentleman.* ‘ If you have any scruple,  
‘ Grub, I will join in the note with all my  
‘ soul.’

*Grub.* ‘ I believe there is no great oc-  
‘ casion, — only in case of accidents a  
‘ collateral security may be necessary.’

*Gentleman.* ‘ Well, well, — you shall  
‘ have it.’

*Grub.* ‘ I suppose, sir, you have ac-  
‘ quainted the gentleman with the com-  
‘ mon way of dealing in these affairs?’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Sir, I am willing to allow  
‘ you any interest for your money that  
‘ you can in reason desire.’

*Grub.* ‘ Sir, I am never out of reason  
‘ with any man ; — as to interest, it is  
‘ quite out of the question, — I shall  
‘ take no more than what the law allows ;  
‘ — but when we advance money upon  
‘ a pinch a certain premium is expected.’

*Clayamon.* ‘ Please to name it.’

*Grub.* ‘ Let me see ; — you want two  
‘ hundred pounds immediately, you say ;  
‘ — it is but a trifling sum, indeed ;  
‘ but too much for a poor man like me  
‘ to lose ; — we who lend money this  
‘ way run a great risque ; — not that I  
‘ doubt you, nor am unwilling to ad-  
‘ vance the money ; but I think you can  
‘ do no less than add an odd fifty in the  
‘ note you make.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ How, sir ! — fifty pounds  
‘ for the loan of two hundred, besides  
‘ the interest.’

*Grub.* ‘ Lookye, sir, I would not  
‘ have you imagine I deal hardly with  
‘ you ; — if you brought me a note on  
‘ the best tradesman in the city, payable  
‘ one month after date, I do assure you  
‘ that I would not discount it a farthing  
‘ less than twenty per cent. — Consider,  
‘ sir,

‘ fir, I may lie a great while out of my  
‘ money; — disappointments sometimes  
‘ happen, and when they do I have not  
‘ the heart to be severe in point of time;  
‘ — I scorn to distress a gentleman when  
‘ I find he has it not in his power to pay,  
‘ unless I hear he is going out of the  
‘ kingdom, or to enter into the army, and  
‘ then, indeed, it behoves me to take care  
‘ of myself; for you know, fir, the old  
‘ proverb, Charity begins at home.’

Clyamon, in favouring me with the recital of this dialogue, told me that he had not presence enough of mind to keep the shock he felt at so exorbitant a demand from being visible to the Usurer, who looking on him with no very pleasing aspect, said to him.

*Grub.* ‘ I perceive you are dissatisfied,  
‘ fir, and if so, I can keep my money,  
‘ and you may try to supply yourself at a  
‘ cheaper rate elsewhere;—for my part, I  
‘ am at no loss how to dispose of the little  
‘ I have, — there are enow will be glad  
‘ to receive it on the terms I offer’d you,  
‘ and, it may be, not grumble to allow  
‘ me a better advantage.’

*Gentleman.* ‘ Nay, — pshaw, — pri-  
‘ thee, Grub, don’t be out of humour, —



‘ my friend is not accusom’d to these things, and I had not time to inform him before we came.’

*Grub.* ‘ Sir, I bear a conscience, and am above imposing on any one; — I am ashamed to think of what is practised at some great Coffee-houses that shall be nameless, where if a gentleman is necessitated to borrow ten pieces he returns twenty for it the next morning, or it may be the same night; — no, — no, — such things are an abomination to me; — I desire no more than a living profit, and whoever does not approve of my conditions is at liberty to reject them; — there is no harm done.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Not in the least, sir, and as this is the first time I ever had occasion to become a borrower, and was utterly ignorant of the methods I should take in such a situation, I may deserve forgiveness.’

Thus was poor Clyamon compell’d, by his impatience to discharge his debt of honour, to acquiesce to the excuse made for him by his friend, and comply with the extortioner’s demand, — on which Grub was easily brought into temper again, — a note was presently drawn for the sum of

two hundred and fifty pounds, and being sign'd by both the gentlemen, the whole sum mention'd in it was deliver'd to Clyamon, who put two hundred pounds into his pocket, and return'd the other fifty to Grub; — this sir, said the wary curmudgeon, I receive as a present from you, and thank you for it.

Clyamon also, in his turn, thank'd him for the favour he had just conferr'd upon him, after which they departed, seemingly with the most perfect good-will towards each other; but it is a truth almost unquestionable, that the lender of this money had infinitely more satisfaction in his mind than the borrower could possibly have.

Dearly, indeed, did he pay for the means of discharging an obligation which his inadvertency had brought him under; — it was, however, of this service to him, that it made him detest high gaming ever since, and careful to avoid all company that might draw him into a second misfortune of the same kind, — as I remember to have formerly read in a very old, and now almost exploded author.

- ‘ Wise is the man, who by one error taught,
- ‘ No more is in the same temptation  
‘ caught.’

There is a way of refraining from being guilty of indiscreet actions, without affecting to be over wise; — Clyamon had this happy talent, — he knew very well, that for a person of his years to set up for a dictator, instead of reforming his companions would only incur their ridicule; and therefore contented himself with not making a party in the modish vices and follies he was spectator of, without seeming to condemn or be displeased at them.

Conscious that on his first arrival in town he had not taken all the care he should have done to regulate his way of living according to his present circumstances, he began to retrench his expences as much as possible he could, without letting the world see he did so, or sinking too much beneath the character of a gentleman born to inherit the ample fortune he was.

But in spite of this somewhat too late assumed œconomy, he soon found himself in very great necessity for a fresh supply; — he had been in London from the latter end of the month of May to the beginning of October, and had received no remittances from the country since he left it; — all his uncle's remonstrances had not

yet

yet prevail'd upon his father to make the proposed settlement on him; the Usurer's loan was quite exhausted, and he had; besides, other small debts to his tradesmen, some of whom had already sent in their bills.

To add to these vexations, Grub visited him almost every day, complain'd he was out of cash himself, and at length grew very importunate, and plainly told him that he could lie no longer out of his money, and that if he did not speedily discharge the note he must take proper measures to force him to it.

In this exigence he wrote a very pressing letter to his father, intreating an order on his Banker in London, but the obdurate Avario only sent him an answer to this effect: — that it was inconvenient for him to break into the sum in the hands of his Banker, — said he must waite awhile, — that he should be in town himself the ensuing November, on the meeting of the Parliament; and that he would then do something for him; — in the mean time bid him live sparingly, and shun all places and company that might draw him into any unnecessary expence.

Poor Clyamon had need enough for all that stock of spirits which nature had en-

dued him with, to enable him to bear up amidst the persecutions of his voracious creditors, and the unnatural behaviour of his father; — he had now no other resource remaining than an application to sir Arthur, but very loth he was to be troublesome to that dear and beneficent uncle, to whom alone he was indebted for what he look'd upon as infinitely more valuable than his being, — his education; and was with much debate within himself, whether it were not better to endure the insults he was exposed to, rather than run the risque of displeasing a patron he had so much cause to love and reverence.

But while he continued thus irresolute in his mind, an accident happen'd which put a final end to all the contention in his thoughts on that score, by presenting him with a misfortune which was the more severe, by its being sudden and unapprehended.

The good sir Arthur Frankwill died, — fate snatch'd him from the world at once, without the least previous warning, and allow'd no time for the making bequests, either to his belov'd Clyamon or any other person, who else he might have thought worthy of a place in his remembrance;

brance ; — so that leaving no Will behind him, his whole estate, together with all the personal effects he was possess'd of, devolved on a son of his elder sister, as being the first of blood and heir at law, — a gentleman who had always look'd upon Clyamon with too envious an eye to have any sincere friendship for him.

The first account of this misfortune was transmitted to Clyamon in a letter from the abovemention'd kinsman, and contain'd the following lines :

TO CLYAMON \*\*\*\*\* , Esq;

“ Dear Cousin,

“ **T**HIS comes to acquaint you with  
“ the loss we both sustain by the  
“ death of our dear uncle, who departed  
“ this life six days ago ; — he was seiz'd  
“ with an apoplectic fit, out of which he  
“ never recover'd; in spite of all the en-  
“ deavours could be used : — I did not  
“ send to desire your company at the  
“ funeral, as it would have been a super-  
“ fluous compliment to him and a great  
“ fatigue and expence to yourself, in com-  
“ ing so long a journey ; but as I am sen-  
“ sible of the affection he had always for  
“ you, I enclose a Bank Bill of twenty  
“ pounds for mourning.

der the calamity to which he had reduced himself, rather than give a single guinea to relieve him from it; and even curs'd the memory of the good sir Arthur for having indulg'd him, as he said, in notions so contrary to what he ought to have been inspir'd with;—it was in vain that Clyamon endeavoured to alleviate his fury,—he would harken to no excuses,—be softened by no submissions he could make.

One of the gentlemen of the honourable board, on Clyamon's request, urged the defence of that young gentleman in the strongest terms; but Avario for many days continued deaf to all remonstrances in his behalf, and gave no other answer, than that as his son had brought himself into this trouble by his folly, he must endeavour to get out of it by his wit.

This cruel sarcasm, when repeated to Clyamon, made him almost forget the duty of a son, and, as he confess'd to me, ready to burst into exclamations, which he would afterwards have reproach'd himself for having been guilty of uttering, or even thinking of.

Grub, and some other of his creditors, finding they could do no more to him in the place where he was, took their revenge.

venge in persecuting him with unceasing clamours, which threw him sometimes into such fits of melancholy, that if he had not been well furnish'd with a great stock of morality and good sense, would doubtless have push'd him on some desperate method to end those misfortunes which he saw no probability of being relieved from.

Avaro, in the mean time, notwithstanding his churlish and sordid disposition, was far from being easy in his mind, — the first gust of passion being blown over, the merits of Clyamon rose in opposition to the fault he had been guilty of, and made it, by degrees, seem less; — he could not forbear remembering that he was his son, and such a son as every one who was a father wished his own might copy after.

In fine, nature and reason join'd their forces, and pleaded strongly in the behalf of Clyamon, and almost wrought him to forgiveness; but as often as he reflected how much it would cost to pardon him, and that he could not receive him into favour without the payment of his debts, the thoughts of parting with his money gave a sudden check to his paternal inclinations.



At length, however, some hints which Clyamon dropp'd in one of the many petitionary letters he sent to him, making him apprehensive that the most dreadful consequences might attend the despair of his offending son, he became determin'd to do something for him.

He sent a person to him with ten guineas for his present support, and an offer of making up his affairs, in case he could prevail on his creditors to compound for the one half of what was owing to them; — Clyamon accepted his father's present, trifling as it was; with submission; but could not forbear testifying the utmost disdain at proposing of a composition; for besides being certain it never would be comply'd with, the thing in itself appear'd to him so abject, that he chose to suffer any thing rather than demean himself to mention it.

This refusal put Avario into a second flame; but he soon cool'd again, and after some little conflict within himself, the necessity there was of restoring the liberty of an only son, got the better of his love of money.

Loth,

Loth, however, to part with his darling pence as long as there was a possibility of keeping them, he found out an expedient to protract the doing a thing so irksome to him, — he communicated his intentions to Clyamon in a letter, which that young gentleman shewing to me afterwards, I found contain'd words to this effect :

TO CLYAMON.

“ SON,

“ **T**HO' I have been justly irritated  
“ against you, first by your extra-  
“ vagances, and since by your late ob-  
“ stinacy, yet I cannot forget I am your  
“ father, nor suffer you to sink beneath  
“ those misfortunes your folly and dis-  
“ obedience have brought you into ; — I  
“ have resolv'd to pay all your debts be-  
“ fore I leave London ; but as it is not  
“ convenient for me to do it sooner,  
“ would not have you venture out of the  
“ Verge, for fear of bringing yourself  
“ into disgrace, and an additional ex-  
“ pence on me for your release ; — in  
“ the mean time am content to allow you  
“ two guineas and a half per week, for  
“ the subsistence of yourself and servant.

“ It

“ It is expected that we shall be dissolved about the middle of February, when Writs will be issued out for a new Election; and I shall then set you clear in the world and take you home with me; for I do not think it at all adviseable that you should live in this luxurious Town, ’till you are better acquainted with the true value of money than you seem to be at present; — I hope, notwithstanding, that your future behaviour will atone for the errors of the past, and I shall have no occasion to repent the proof I now give you of being

“ Your affectionate father,

“ AVARIO.

The joy which Clyamon would have felt, on finding that full satisfaction would be given to the demands of his impatient creditors, was very much abated by the thoughts of being obliged to reside constantly with his father in the country, as the manner in which he knew he must live with the old gentleman would be very disagreeable to his humour, and widely different from what he had been accusom’d to with his uncle.

It also seem'd a little hard to him, that by delaying the discharge of his debts 'till his departure, he should be secluded from all enjoyment of the pleasures and amusements of the town, even while he continued in it; — but he saw into the policy of his father in doing this, and as there was no remedy, endeavour'd to be as contented as possible.

In the answer he gave to his father's letter he express'd himself in terms which were highly pleasing to him, and brought on a perfect reconciliation, as will presently appear, on occasion of an accident which happen'd soon after.



## C H A P. IX.

*Concludes a narrative which has somewhat in it that will, in a manner, compel those who shall be most offended, to counterfeit an approbation, for the sake of their own interest and reputation.*

**T**H<sup>O</sup>' the greatest intimacy with Clyamon, and a long acquaintance with Avario, made me no stranger even to the  
minute

minute particulars of the transaction I am relating, I mean, as far as I could be inform'd by the perfect confidence with which I was honour'd by both these gentlemen ; yet as no sure dependance can be placed either on what people say of themselves, or the report given of them by others, I should never have ventur'd to speak so positively in many things as I have done, if the gift of Invisibilty had not afforded me an opportunity of accompanying them when they thought themselves entirely alone, and of beholding them in those unguarded attitudes which are the best, and, indeed, the only certain discoverers of the inward workings of the human mind.

It was my dear Belt could have alone convinced me that, contrary to the general opinion of the world, it was not ill nature in Avario, or ignorance of what he ought to do, which had hinder'd him from being an affectionate husband, a tender father, a faithful friend, and an indulgent master ; but merely his inordinate love of money, and an unaccountable apprehension of being reduced to the want of it, that made him center his whole cares on his bags, regardless of all the ties of blood and nature ; and, in fine, render'd him almost incapable of practising any social virtue.

It

It was by this beneficial present that I became assur'd Clyamon was much more worthy than he took any pains to appear; — that in all serious matters he was steady and unshaken, and in his pleasures decent and well manner'd; and that, young as he was, he had set up a tribunal in his own heart, where Reason presiding as sole judge carefully examin'd all his actions, and whenever any unruly passion had got the start, stopp'd it in its full career, and brought it back to obedience.

Many interesting circumstances, relating to this affair, between father and son, are lost to the public by my having been depriv'd for some time of my Crystalline Tablets, which had been stolen from me, with several other things of much less, tho' more seeming value, by an unfaithful servant; but the villain, finding, I suppose, that he could make nothing of the Tablets, and looking upon them only as a curiosity which would please no body so much as myself, seal'd them up and caused them to be left for me at a coffee-house; — my joy at getting them again made me forgive the rest of the robbery, and seek no farther after the Thief.

I re-

I recover'd my purloin'd treasure just about the time that Clyamon was in the abovemention'd situation ; so that what remains to be recited of this narrative will be chiefly taken from the mouths of the persons concern'd in it.

I was one morning in Clyamon's apartment, under cover of my Belt, when a young gentleman of the name of Careless came to visit him ; — after exchanging the *bon jour*, and some other customary salutations, Careless began the conversation between them in these terms :

*Careless.* ‘ Where do you think I was yesterday ?’

*Clyamon* ‘ I am no conjurer.’

*Careless.* ‘ Guess.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ It would be a needless trouble ; — prithee spare it me,’

*Careless.* ‘ Why, faith, in the gallery of the House of Commons.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ The House of Commons ! —  
‘ it must be a business of vast importance  
‘ sure, that could carry a fellow of thy  
gay

‘ gay sprightly temper into that grave venerable place.’

*Careless.* ‘ No, — thank Heaven, business and I are perfect strangers to each other ; but I had an hour or two upon my hands, and went thither merely to kill time ; — but was never more diverted in my whole life, than to see how some young members, who had got their heads together and were giggling over a copy of verses inscrib’d to Fanny Murray, were put to silence in an instant, and look’d as silly as a school-boy under the lash of correction, on the Speaker’s crying out with an audible and austere voice, — To order, gentlemen, — for shame — to order.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Methinks, indeed, they might have found a more proper place and time for laughter. — Was my father in the House, pray?’

*Careless.* ‘ O yes, and I assure you the old gentleman made as wise a figure as any there ; — he said nothing, indeed, but sat as serious as a judge upon a criminal cause, leaning both his hands upon his gold-headed cane, and his chin upon his hands, and listening with great attention



‘ attention to a very long, and I suppose,  
 ‘ learned harangue of a leading member.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ What was the matter in  
 ‘ debate ?’

*Careless.* ‘ Why, on Ways and Means,  
 ‘ how to undo handsomely what they  
 ‘ were doing last sessions ; — the Jew  
 ‘ bill.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Is it like to be repeal’d ?’

*Careless.* ‘ Nay, I did not stay to hear  
 ‘ the end of it ; but was told, after I was  
 ‘ come out, that the clamours of the peo-  
 ‘ ple would prevail : — there is doubtless  
 ‘ a great ferment among the busy part of  
 ‘ the town, — the Court of Requests and  
 ‘ Lobby were as full as they could hold  
 ‘ of petitioning Christians and remon-  
 ‘ strating Jews, the latter of whom, I think,  
 ‘ seem to be a little crest-fallen, and good  
 ‘ reason they have to be so ; for whatever  
 ‘ favour they may find within, they are  
 ‘ sure to be insulted without doors ; — I  
 ‘ was half deafen’d as I went down stairs  
 ‘ with the noise made by the rabble in-  
 ‘ cessantly bawling out, — No Circumci-  
 ‘ sion, — no Jews, — No naturalization of  
 ‘ Foreigners.’

*Clyamon.*

*Clyamon.* ‘ Then I believe there is no  
‘ great room to doubt of its being re-  
‘ peal’d; for, according to all the ac-  
‘ counts I ever read or heard of, when-  
‘ ever the bulk of the people were una-  
‘ nimous in any thing, they were always  
‘ sure to get the better of the minister.’

‘ *Careless.* ‘ It may be so, — and the  
‘ thoughts of a new election coming on  
‘ may also possibly contribute a good deal  
‘ to the complaisance of the Parliament;  
‘ — but these things are of no sort of con-  
‘ cern to you and I. — How do you de-  
‘ sign to dispose of yourself to day?’

*Clyamon.* ‘ I have not yet consider’d.’

‘ *Careless.* ‘ ’Tis a glorious morning;  
‘ are you for the Park? — I come on pur-  
‘ pose to ask you.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ With all my heart.’

‘ *Careless.* ‘ Come along then, — I dare  
‘ swear the Mall is half full by this time,  
‘ — let us go and laugh at the great vul-  
‘ gar and the small, — as Congreve says.’

Just as they was going out of the room  
a letter was presented to Clyamon from  
his

his father, which he turning back to read  
 I stepp'd behind him, and found it contain'd these lines:

TO CLYAMON.

“ Dear CLY,

“ I Have something to impart to you,  
 “ which is of the utmost consequence  
 “ to my peace of mind and your future  
 “ happiness, — be careful, therefore, not  
 “ to be out of the way to-morrow morn-  
 “ ing, when I shall call upon you as I go  
 “ the House; for what I have to propose  
 “ cannot be settled too soon; — be assured  
 “ I am impatient to see you make as good  
 “ a figure in the world as I think you de-  
 “ serve, and that no more is requir'd of  
 “ you than a just sense of your duty to  
 “ me, and a regard for what is your own  
 “ interest, to preserve me always

“ Your very indulgent

“ And loving father,

„ AVARIO.

Clyamon was so transported with the kindness of this epistle, that he could not forbear shewing it to Careless, who, knowing the temper of Avario, had no sooner look'd over than he said:

*Careless.*

*Careless.* ‘ I will lay my life upon it,  
‘ that the old gentleman has found out  
‘ some rich widow or heiress for you, with  
‘ whose fortune you may make a figure in  
‘ the world, and save his own ’till he can  
‘ keep it no longer.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ I hope not so, for as yet I  
‘ have no inclination to marry; and when  
‘ ever I do shall like to have a wife of my  
‘ own chusing.’

*Careless.* ‘ You must be cautious, ne-  
‘ vertheless, not to venture a second brulee  
‘ with him; for he seems to have set his  
‘ heart very much upon this business,  
‘ whatever it is that he has now got into  
‘ his head.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Deuce take you for put-  
‘ ting it into mine; — but I will think no  
‘ more on it : — if the thing should be as  
‘ you imagine, I shall have time enough  
‘ to be uneasy after knowing it; — but  
‘ come, — ’tis almost two o’clock, — let  
‘ us away.’

With these words they went on their  
promenade, and I return’d home; where  
reflecting, as I always did after these ex-  
cursions, on what I had seen and heard,

I could not help being of the same opinion with mr. Careless, as touching the intentions of Avario, and fear'd that poor Clyamon, with all his merit, would be oblig'd to become a prey to some old well jointur'd Jezabel, or rich Dowdy, who ow'd her virginity to her ugliness.

By what I have often freely confess'd, concerning the inquisitiveness of my disposition, the reader will easily suppose I felt no small impatience for the event of Avario's visit to his son; and, indeed, I believe that young gentleman himself could scarce be more anxious.

That I might lose nothing of what should pass between them, I took care to post myself very early in Clyamon's apartment, and it was well I did so, both for the satisfaction of my own curiosity and the emolument of the public; — for Avario came in presently after me.

As they had not seen each other for some time, Clyamon threw himself on his knees, and in that posture thank'd his father for the pardon he had vouchsafed to his offence, as well as for his kind promise he had given for the discharge of his debts: Avario seem'd very much pleased with this submission, rais'd and embraced him  
with

with great affection, and after they were seated reply'd to what he had said in these terms:

*Avario.* ' It is a great deal of money, indeed, the folly you have been guilty of will cost me ; but it is the first, and I flatter myself will be the last I shall have to complain of, — so we will say no more of what is past; — I came now to talk with you on a subject more agreeable to us both.'

*Clyamon.* ' I have the greatest reason in the world, sir, to hope every thing from your goodness.'

*Avario.* ' Ay, Clyamon, — you are my only son, — you may be sure I have nothing so much at heart as your welfare, and I think I have now hit upon something that will make you as happy as you can wish to be.'

Clyamon returning no other answer to these words than a low bow, the old gentleman continued his discourse.

*Avario.* ' Your late uncle, sir Arthur, was always teasing me on the score of a constant allowance for you out of my estate, to the end you might be in a  
O 2 manner

‘ manner independent, and I have at length resolv’d to do it.’

*Clamon.* ‘ Whatever you are pleased to grant, sir, I shall take care to employ so as to give you no cause to repent your bounty.’

*Avario.* ‘ But that is not all, Clyamon; — what I shall do for you will put you in a way of making yourself a much greater man than you would be by what you will enjoy on my decease.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ I am not ambitious, sir, but shall readily embrace any laudable means of raising my fortune.’

*Avario.* ‘ Why that’s well said, and what I have to propose is not only laudable but honourable too: — it is this, — you shall be a Member of the House of Commons.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Sir I should be proud to serve my Country in any capacity; but in this fear my youth and inexperience will be very just objections.’

*Avario.* ‘ Tut, — tut, — there are much younger than you in the House, and tho’ I say it, of much less understanding too;

‘ too. — As to the forms that are to be  
‘ observ’d there, I can instruct you in  
‘ them; — and as to the rest, you will  
‘ easily come into it of yourself; — there-  
‘ fore no more of such idle scruples: —  
‘ an over modesty and diffidence of your-  
‘ self is the worst quality a man that  
‘ aims to rise in the world can be  
‘ possess’d of. — I have consider’d on  
‘ this matter in all its circumstances,  
‘ before I mention’d it to you; and in  
‘ order to qualify you for a Member, have  
‘ resolv’d to assign over to you five  
‘ hundred pounds per annum of my  
‘ estate.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ That, sir, is more than I  
‘ could have presumed to ask.’

*Avario.* ‘ I mean, the rents of so  
‘ much shall be received in your name;  
‘ — as to the cash, I think it much safer  
‘ in my own hands than yours; but you  
‘ shall want nothing that is necessary, and  
‘ when the business of Parliament calls  
‘ you to London, give you leave to  
‘ draw upon me for what sum, or sums,  
‘ you shall find occasion for in reason.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ This, sir, is far from put-  
‘ ting me out of a state of dependance.’



*Avario.* ‘ You ought not to desire it ;  
‘ — your uncle talk’d foolishly, — very  
‘ foolishly on this head ; and if it had not  
‘ been for the obligation I had to him on  
‘ the score of your education, I should  
‘ have told him so : — a son ought always  
‘ to be dependant on his father, and I  
‘ think you have very great cause to be  
‘ content in being so, as you have ex-  
‘ perienced the paternal affection I have  
‘ for you by my readiness to forgive your  
‘ faults, and to discharge those debts your  
‘ extravagances had contracted.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Sir, I shall always retain a  
‘ grateful and dutious sense of all you  
‘ have done for me ; — but, pray sir,  
‘ since it is your pleasure that I should be  
‘ a Candidate at the ensuing Election,  
‘ what Place have you in your eye for  
‘ me ? — I suppose for some Borough.’

*Avario.* ‘ No, no, — for our own  
‘ County.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Then, sir, — do you decline  
‘ standing yourself?’

*Avario.* ‘ Yes, Clyamon, — I grow  
‘ old, and am weary of the fatigue of  
‘ coming up to London once every year ;  
‘ — I

‘ — I find it very expensive, as well as  
‘ troublesome; for tho’ I board while I  
‘ am here at a pretty cheap rate, with  
‘ one that was formerly my servant, yet  
‘ I know not how it is, money runs  
‘ strangely away in this town; — besides,  
‘ I do not think I have been well used, —  
‘ I have had the honour of representing  
‘ the County of \*\*\*\*, in three successive  
‘ Parliaments, and have got nothing by it,  
‘ — but the honour; — and tho’ I have  
‘ constantly voted on the side of the court,  
‘ and whenever any Debate of consequence  
‘ was to come upon the carpet, have al-  
‘ ways previously attended the Levee of  
‘ the Minister, to know his will and  
‘ pleasure; all the recompence I have had,  
‘ has been sometimes a shake of the hand,  
‘ a gracious nod, a smile, and, how does  
‘ my good friend Avario.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ You amaze me, sir, — I  
‘ never imagined a gentleman had any  
‘ other interest in his Election, than the  
‘ pleasure of having an opportunity to  
‘ serve his Country.’

*Avario.* ‘ Serve his Country; — a  
‘ fiddle on the Country; — it would be  
‘ well worth a gentleman’s while, indeed,  
‘ to cajole, treat, and bribe every little  
‘ dirty fellow that has a Vote to give, —

‘ to spend so much time and money, and,  
‘ it may be, drink himself half dead into  
‘ the bargain at his Election, if it were not  
‘ for the sake of serving himself, instead  
‘ of the rabble who make choice of him  
‘ for their Representative ; — no, no, —  
‘ boy, if we had not honour, favour, and  
‘ preferment in view, our Electors would  
‘ be obliged to court us to accept their  
‘ Votes, not we to solicit them.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ But, sir, supposing this to  
‘ be the case, how do you think it possible  
‘ I should acquire any of those advantages  
‘ which you say you have fail’d in  
‘ the pursuit of yourself ?’

*Avario.* ‘ I’ll tell you, Clyamon, — I  
‘ could only give my bare Vote for or  
‘ against any Question ; — I never had the  
‘ gift either of speaking or writing ; —  
‘ now I am pretty sure you can do both ;  
‘ and a pathetic speech, or a strong pamphlet  
‘ are prevailing arguments with the  
‘ Ministry ; — a man that can do these  
‘ may have any thing, — may make his  
‘ own price ; — so, Cly, it will be your  
‘ own fault if in a Sessions or two you are  
‘ not above receiving any assistance from  
‘ me.’

*Clyamon.*

*Clyamon.* ‘ Sir I shall be always ready  
‘ to exert the little talents I am master of  
‘ to promote whatever I think is for the  
‘ good of the Commonwealth.’

*Avario.* ‘ Tut, — what have you to  
‘ do with the Commonwealth? — you  
‘ are not to set up for a judge of what  
‘ is for its good or what is not so; — your  
‘ business is to please the Minister, and to  
‘ think every thing right he takes upon  
‘ him to maintain.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ But, sir, how is this con-  
‘ sistent with my conscience or my  
‘ honour?’

*Avario.* ‘ Idle, — very idle, — I do  
‘ not like these notions, Clyamon, — they  
‘ may tempt you to an opposition; — I  
‘ shall be afraid you are a Jacobite.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Why, sir, are all men of  
‘ honour Jacobites?’

*Avario.* ‘ No; — but this romantic  
‘ unprofitable honour you talk of, is  
‘ either Jacobitism or something as bad;  
‘ — enthusiasm and bigotry. — Is not  
‘ the Court the source of true honour? —  
‘ Do not all honours, dignities and pro-  
‘ motions

‘ motions flow from thence? — There-  
 ‘ fore I say, whoever is against the Court  
 ‘ will never rise to honour, or any thing  
 ‘ else that is valuable.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ A certain right honour-  
 ‘ able and learned author of the last age  
 ‘ has very different sentiments upon this  
 ‘ head,—if you will give me leave, sir, I  
 ‘ will read to you some part of what he  
 ‘ wrote on the subject of Honour.’

In speaking these words he took up a  
 a book and read this passage out of the late  
 Lord Hallifax’s works.’

‘ Not all the threats or favours of a Crown,  
 ‘ A Prince’s whisper, or a Tyrant’s  
 ‘ frown,  
 ‘ Can awe the spirits, or allure the mind  
 ‘ Of him, who to strict Honour is inclin’d.  
 ‘ Tho’ all the pomp and pleasure that  
 ‘ does wait,  
 ‘ On public Places, and affairs of  
 ‘ State,  
 ‘ Should fondly court him to be base  
 ‘ and great,  
 ‘ With even passions, and with settled  
 ‘ face,  
 ‘ He would remove the harlot’s false  
 ‘ embrace,

‘ Tho’

- Tho' all the storms and tempests should  
    ' arise,
- That Court Magicians in their cells  
    ' devise,
- And from their settled basis nations  
    ' tear,
- He wou'd unmov'd, the mighty ruin  
    ' bear ;
- Secure in innocence, condemn them  
    ' all,
- And decently array'd in Honour fall :
- Honour, that spark of the celestial  
    ' fire,
- That above nature makes mankind as-  
    ' pire ;
- Ennobles the rude passions of our  
    ' frame,
- With thirst of glory, and desire of  
    ' fame,
- The richest treasure of a gen'rous breast,
- And gives the stamp and standard to  
    ' the rest.
- Wit, strength, and courage are wild  
    ' dang'rous force,
- Unless this soften and direct their  
    ' course.
- Of Honour, men at first, like women  
    ' nice,
- Raise maiden scruples, at unpractis'd  
    ' vice ;

- But once this fence thrown down, when  
  ‘ they perceive,
- That they may taste forbidden fruit and  
  ‘ live,
- They stop not here their course, but  
  ‘ safely in,
- Grow strong, luxuriant, and bold in sin:
- True to no principle, press forward  
  ‘ still,
- And only bound by appetite their will;
- Now fawn and flatter, while this tide  
  ‘ prevails,
- But shift, with ev’ry veering blast their  
  ‘ sails,
- On higher springs true men of Honour  
  ‘ move,
- Free is their service, and unbought their  
  ‘ love.’

He was going on, but was stopp’d by  
 Avario, who pull’d him by the sleeve and  
 cry’d out:

*Avario.* ‘ Hold, hold, Clyamon, —  
 ; enough, — all this is mighty pretty,  
 ‘ and sounds well; but you are to con-  
 ‘ sider that it is a great while ago since  
 ‘ the noble Lord wrote this Poem; and  
 ‘ what was look’d upon as Honour in his  
 ‘ days, may probably wear another aspect  
 ‘ now; — and ’tis wisdom to conform  
 ‘ to the times.’

*Clyamon.*

*Clyamon.* ‘ Reason, fir, will still be  
‘ reason, in all times and ages.’

*Avaria.* ‘ I do not know that; for  
‘ they say every age improves in under-  
‘ standing: — but be that as it may, I  
‘ can answer your quotation with one  
‘ from another author of great reputation  
‘ for his wit and learning; — it is this :

— ‘ Money is the only Power,  
‘ That all mankind falls down before :  
‘ ’Tis Virtue, Honour, Wit, and all  
‘ That men divine and sacred call ;  
‘ For what’s the worth of any thing,  
‘ But so much money as ’twill bring.

‘ So you see, Clyamon, that learned  
‘ men, tho’ coterptoraries, are some-  
‘ times widely different from each other  
‘ in their opinions in this point.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ The lines you have re-  
‘ peated do not prove it, fir; — I beg  
‘ you will be pleased to reflect, that the  
‘ ingenious author of Hudibras does not  
‘ utter these sentiments as his own, but  
‘ puts them in the mouth of his mock  
‘ hero, a wretch that was in open Rebel-  
‘ lion against his lawful King, and are in-  
‘ tended as a satire, not an argument.’

*Avaria.*



*Avario*, ‘ Odheart, boy, thou art in the right,—I never thought of that ;— but ’tis no matter what any of them say ; — ’tis plain that what is now meant by Honour implies a title, a riband, a pension, a place, or any thing that denotes the favour of the Court to the person who possesses it ; — therefore, I say again, — get rid of these prejudices, — sail with the Tide, — keep close with the Minister, and endeavour to make yourself of consequence to him,’

*Clyamon*, ‘ Sir, you may be perfectly assur’d that I shall always do my best in the support of every measure which tends to the real honour of his Majesty, and the good of my Country ; — and never oppose any which do not oppose the Constitution.’

*Avario*, ‘ But you must not examine too scrupulously into these things ; — you are to suppose that those who are entrusted with the management of Public Affairs are better acquainted with the Constitution than you can pretend to be ; and must therefore take it for granted, that whatever they say or do is right.’

*Clyamon*..

*Clyamon.* ‘ But, fir, does not this  
‘ implicit faith in the judgment of others,  
‘ and giving up my own entirely, favour  
‘ somewhat of a slavish submission?’

*Avario.* ‘ No, it is only good policy,  
‘ and look’d upon as such by all who  
‘ know the world; — indeed, if after  
‘ your Voting, Speaking, and Writing,  
‘ they should take no notice of you, it  
‘ would behove you to pluck up a spirit,  
‘ and extort that respect to your resentment,  
‘ which they were not grateful  
‘ enough to pay to your complisance; —  
‘ I shall then give you leave to oppose  
‘ them in every thing, whether it be  
‘ wrong or whether it be right.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ But would not this changing  
‘ sides, fir, make me become contemptible  
‘ to both Parties?’

*Avario.* ‘ Not at all; it is a thing too  
‘ commonly practis’d to be wonder’d at,  
‘ and has often had a very good effect  
‘ when nothing else would do: — Publico,  
‘ for example; — it was a good while,  
‘ indeed, before they bid up to his price;  
‘ but he found it necessary at last, and he  
‘ now enjoys the fruits of his labour?’

*Clyamon.*

*Clyamon.* ‘ Yes, sir, and I have heard  
‘ of many others who have been bought  
‘ off the same way ; but whatever has  
‘ been done in former administrations, I  
‘ hope the present will attempt nothing  
‘ that ought to be opposed.’

*Avario.* ‘ No, no, — you are not to  
‘ suppose they will ; unless, as I just now  
‘ observ’d, they force you to it by neglect-  
‘ ing to recompence your services.’

*Clyamon,* ‘ According to this, sir, it  
‘ will be very difficult, if not altogether  
‘ impossible, for the People to distinguish  
‘ between those who would defend, and  
‘ those who would betray and sacrifice the  
‘ Liberties of their Constituents.’

*Avario.* ‘ If the People are betray’d  
‘ and sacrificed, as you call it, they can  
‘ blame nobody but themselves. — Why  
‘ do they take money for their Votes ?  
‘ Why do they, like Esau, sell their birth-  
‘ rights for a mess of pottage ? — When a  
‘ gentleman buys a County, a Borough,  
‘ or a Corporation, he has, doubtless, a  
‘ right to make the most of it he can.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ This, sir, is punishing Cor-  
‘ ruption with Corruption.’

*Avario.*

*Avario.* ‘ Ay, — is it not just it  
‘ should be so, — as I remember to have  
‘ read some where or other ?’

‘ This world is all a trick, — then who  
‘ will dare,  
‘ Among known Cheats to play upon the  
‘ square ?

‘ Lookye, Clyamon, you are a novice  
‘ in these affairs as yet, but a little time  
‘ will make them familiar to you ; — I  
‘ do not doubt but I shall hear of your  
‘ being closetted by the great man ; and  
‘ when once you are closetted your busi-  
‘ ness is done ; — you will have no farther  
‘ occasion for my instructions or assistance  
‘ either ; — but I shall say no more at  
‘ present on that head, — you must think  
‘ of preparing yourself to set out on  
‘ your journey to \*\*\*\*, in a day or two.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ What, sir, before you go ?

*Avario.* ‘ Yes, yes, — we shall not be  
‘ dissolved so soon as we expected, — I do  
‘ not believe I shall be able to get down  
‘ these six weeks or two months ; — there  
‘ have been some odd turns of late ; —  
‘ but no matter, — they are secrets, — and  
‘ must be kept so ; — but it is highly  
‘ necessary

‘ necessary you should begin to make  
‘ your interest; — you are already known  
‘ to the greatest part of the gentry, and  
‘ I am pretty sure that they will all be  
‘ for you to a man; — but you must  
‘ cultivate an acquaintance with the  
‘ Freeholders, — ride about among them,  
‘ — invite some of the most leading men  
‘ home, — treat them handsomely; — and  
‘ make little presents to their wives and  
‘ daughters, of snuff-boxes, rings, neck-  
‘ laces, and such toys, to please their  
‘ fancies; — I will get a friend of mine  
‘ to purchase a cargo of them for you to  
‘ take down, and will write to my steward  
‘ to furnish you with what money you  
‘ shall have occasion for.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ Do they know, sir, that  
‘ you intend to decline standing any  
‘ more?’

*Avario.* ‘ Not yet; but I shall write  
‘ to-night to inform them of it, and to  
‘ urge all my friends in your behalf: —  
‘ I hear your cousin Hawksmore has taken  
‘ it into his head to offer himself as a  
‘ Candidate, and tho’ he is not beloved,  
‘ on account of the bustle he made about  
‘ the Turnpikes, yet the large estate he is  
‘ now in possession of, by the death of sir  
‘ Arthur, may give him an influence over  
‘ some

‘ some people, — so there is no time to be lost; — I would have you leave London on Monday next; — I have given orders that all your creditors shall be paid their full demands this day, and I think you can have no other business of consequence to detain you here.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ None at all, sir.’

*Avario.* ‘ Well then, what friends you have to take leave of you may see this afternoon, and come to dine with me to-morrow; — it is Sunday, and you know is a leisure day, and I shall be at home, — tho’ I am a boarder, I believe you will be welcome, — or it may be I shall add a dish to the table; — therefore do not fail to come.’

*Clyamon.* ‘ You may depend, sir, that this command is too agreeable to me not to be punctually obey’d.’

The old gentleman then said no more, but after giving his son a gracious nod went out of the room, with a countenance which denoted the most perfect satisfaction of mind; — Clyamon waited on him down stairs, and I intended to follow as soon as his return should give me an opportunity of going down; but was retarded.

warded by mr. Careless, who came in immediately after Avario was out of the house.

This gentleman, who it seems has a sincere friendship for Clyamon, had been extremely impatient, and, indeed, more anxious than could have been expected, from a person of his gay thoughtless disposition, to know the event of the letter he had received from his father, had been come to the house some time, and waited in the parlour till the departure of Avario made it proper for him to appear.

Almost the first Salutation he gave to Clyamon contain'd an entreaty for the satisfaction of his curiosity in this point, which the other very readily comply'd with, in general terms; but had too much discretion to expose his father's mercenary views; or by relating the design he had of making him a Member of Parliament, reveal the motives he had for doing so, or the instructions he had given him for his behaviour after he should be elected.

Mr. Careless, after having congratulated his friend on his being re-establish'd in the good graces of his father, and the honour that was about to recede to him, said

said a great many pleasant and spirituous things to him, on the occasion of his being likely to become a Member of that august and respectable Assembly.

But the particulars of this discourse, entertaining as it was, I am entirely unable to repeat, my Tablets being already crowded with the preceding dialogue, and all I can remember is, that the two gentlemen, after chatting away an hour, agreed to dine together that day, and to that end adjourn'd to a tavern in the neighbourhood, leaving me at liberty to retire to my own apartment.

I was extremely pleased with finding, by what I had seen that day of Clyamon, that I had not been deceived in the high-raised expectations I had entertain'd of his good sense and probity; and also with perceiving that Avario, in spite of his fordid and avaritious disposition, could not help allowing the merits of a son, whose sentiments and principles were in almost every thing so directly opposite to his own.

The evening of the next day this worthy young gentleman call'd upon me, as he return'd from having pass'd the former part of it with his father; — he was much less reserv'd with me than he had



had been with mr. Careless, which convinced me he knew how to refrain unbosoming himself to those whose solidity he had cause to doubt, and took a pleasure in being intirely open to those on whom he could depend, that his confidence would not be abused, either by wantonness or neglect.

I am pretty sensible, that on my saying this not a few of my readers will set me down in their minds as a vain presuming fellow, and be apt to cry out against me as if guilty of the very same folly I have, in several pages of this work, with some severity, lash'd in others; but I would have them consider, the only merit I pretend to is a serious humour, which I think is no great boast; and also that there is a justice due from every one to himself, as well as to those he speaks of.

But to return to a subject more interesting than any thing relating to the praise or vindication of myself; — when Clymon repeated to me the rules prescribed to him by his father for the regulation of his conduct in Parliament, he express'd the little obligation he thought himself under to him on that score in terms the most strong and pathetic; — these are some of his words:

‘ The

‘ The love of my Country, said he, I  
‘ look upon as the first and greatest moral  
‘ duty of mankind ; — and I think I may  
‘ venture to assure myself, that I never  
‘ shall be tempted to renounce it on the  
‘ prospect of any advantage offer’d, in  
‘ what shape soever.’

I then told him, that I believed the  
bulk of the People owed the grievances  
they complained of greatly to the luxury of  
their Representatives, who having impair’d  
their estates in the modish excesses of the  
times, found themselves under a necessity  
of entering into measures which otherwise  
they would never have comply’d with.

‘ Perhaps too, added I, to gratify the am-  
‘ bition of a beloved wife, or prevent the  
‘ clamour of a trubulent one, may be one  
‘ reason to which the infringement of  
‘ public Liberty may be ascrib’d.’

Clyamon listen’d with great attention  
to what I said, and joining in my opi-  
nion, reply’d, that his own observation of  
some late instances confirm’d the truth of  
this argument, — ‘ The first of these ex-

‘ citations, continued he, I have already  
‘ experienced the danger of through my  
‘ inadvertency, and shall be wary to avoid  
‘ the snare in which I have been once en-  
‘ tangled ;

‘ tangled ; — and as for the other, if ever  
 ‘ I marry, shall endeavour to get a wife  
 ‘ as near as possible to the description  
 ‘ given by the Poet of his mistress ;

---

\* A maid

‘ Who knows not Courts, yet Courts  
 ‘ does far outshine,  
 ‘ In every starry beauty of the mind ;  
 ‘ One who array’d in native loveliness,  
 ‘ And sweet simplicity, despises art ;  
 ‘ And as a soul too great to stoop to pride,  
 ‘ With the mean ways by which it aims  
 ‘ at grandeur.’

With these discourses we pass’d the time  
 he staid ; — I have not seen him since,  
 but heard of his safe arrival at \*\*\*\* ; —  
 whether he will be elected for that County  
 cannot be determin’d at the time of my  
 writing this ; so can only say, that if he  
 is, I doubt not but his character will ap-  
 pear to much more advantage than in the  
 faint sketch I have here been able to give  
 of it.

*End of the Second VOLUME.*











1